

GENEALOGY COLLECTION

ALLEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY



3 1833 01084 7736

HISTORY
OF
PLYMOUTH COUNTY,
IOWA

HER PEOPLE, INDUSTRIES AND INSTITUTIONS

W. S. FREEMAN
Editor

With Biographical Sketches of Representative Citizens and
Genealogical Records of Many of the Old Families

VOLUME II

ILLUSTRATED

1917
B. F. BOWEN & COMPANY, Inc.
Indianapolis, Indiana

CONTENTS

VOLUME I 1134225

INTRODUCTION	33
A Wonderful Transformation—Michigan Territory—Wisconsin Territory—Admission of Iowa as a State—Treaties with the Indians and Cessions of Their Lands to the United States—Beginning of Plymouth County—Its Rapid Development—Territory Acquired and Developed by White Men—The Domain of the Various Indian Tribes of the State—The Black Hawk War—The Fifteen Treaties with the Indians—Iowa Territory—"State-line War"—Iowa Made a State—Some Early Legislation—Locating and Re-locating the State Capital—Prohibition of Slavery—Constitutional Convention of 1857.	
CHAPTER I—GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY.....	44
Geographical Location of Plymouth County—Boundaries—Area—Geological Exposures—Topography—Elevations—Drainage Slopes—Characteristic Surface Features—Sharply Contrasted Areas—Perfection of Drainage System—Streams—General Description of Soil Deposits—Glacial Drift—Stratified Drift—Forest Beds—Summary—Economic Products—Clay—Coal—Water Supply—Soil.	
CHAPTER II—GENERAL SETTLEMENT OF THE COUNTY.....	57
First Settlement in 1856—The Earliest Comers—Ambitious Townsite Promoters—Organization of the County and First Townships—First County Officers—Location of the County Seat—First Religious Services—First Attempt at Flourmaking—First Public School—First Postoffice—An Indian Scare—Grasshopper Raid—Homestead Act and Its Influence on Immigration—Coming of the Railroad—History of the Big Sioux Valley—First Hotel—Some Incidents of Early Days.	
CHAPTER III—ORGANIZATION AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT.....	66
Plymouth County Becomes an Independent Organization in 1858—County Records Well Preserved—First Officials—Early Records—First County Building—Proceedings of the Boards of Supervisors—Re-location of the County Seat—Appropriation for New Court House—A New Jail—County Officers' Salaries, 1892—Russian Thistle Pest—County Officers' Bonds, 1897—The Present Court House and Bonds Issued Therefor—Akron Township—Refunding Bond Issue—Assessed Valuation of 1916—County Finances—County Fund Depositories—Sheriff's Report, 1915—Inmates in State Institutions—Poor Farm Property—County Officers, 1916—Expenses of Supervisors in 1915—Criminal Expenses—Public Roads in the County.	

CONTENTS.

CHAPTER IV—OFFICIALS OF PLYMOUTH COUNTY-----	88
Political Characteristics of the County—Worthiness of the Office-holders Generally—Presidential Vote—Gubernatorial Vote—Congressmen—State Representatives—County Judges—District Judges—Circuit Judges—County Auditors—County Treasurers—Recorders—Sheriffs—Clerks of the Court— Coroners—County School Superintendents—County Surveyors—County Attorneys—Supervisors—Town Assessors—Township Assessors—Township Clerks and Trustees—Drainage Commissioners—Vote on Prohibitory Liquor Amendment, 1882—Fremont Club—Political Changes.	
CHAPTER V—AMERICA TOWNSHIP -----	99
Location, Boundaries and Area—Population—Pioneer Settlement—Events of Historic Interest—Early-day Fatalities—A Reminiscence—Grasshoppers— Recollection of Some Unusual Storms—Voters in 1916.	
CHAPTER VI—ELGIN TOWNSHIP -----	106
Location, Area and Boundaries—Streams—Population—Pioneer Settlers— How the Township Was Named—First Events—Village of Seney—Village of Struble—Voters in 1916.	
CHAPTER VII—ELKHORN TOWNSHIP -----	114
Location—Streams—Population—Pioneer Settlement—First Events—A Big Wheat Farm—Old Village of Quorn—Voters in 1916.	
CHAPTER VIII—FREDONIA TOWNSHIP -----	119
Location—Boundaries—Population—Early Settlement—Pioneer Conditions— Some First Events—Early Accidents—An Interesting Reminiscence by Mat. Wurth—Voters in 1916.	
CHAPTER IX—GARFIELD TOWNSHIP -----	125
Location—Boundaries—Streams—Population—Settlement—Some Early Events—Town of Kingsley—Voters in 1916.	
CHAPTER X—GRANT TOWNSHIP -----	135
Location—Name—Population—Settlement—Memories of Other Days—Notes Regarding Some Pioneers—Interesting Early Events—Village of Mammen— Village of Craig—Voters in 1916.	
CHAPTER XI—HANCOCK TOWNSHIP -----	144
Location, Boundaries and Area—Population—Early Settlers—Some Early Events—Pre-historic Evidences and Earthworks—Minerals—Early Incidents of Interest—Belle Vista—Voters in 1916.	
CHAPTER XII—HENRY TOWNSHIP -----	150
Location—Streams—Population—First Settlers—Early Events—Voters in 1916.	
CHAPTER XIII—HUNGERFORD TOWNSHIP -----	153
Location—Population—Streams—Settlement—Early Events—Village of Hin- ton—James—Voters in 1916.	
CHAPTER XIV—JOHNSON TOWNSHIP -----	158
Location—Streams—Settlement—Postoffices—A Fatal Prairie Fire—Voters in 1916.	

CONTENTS.

CHAPTER XV—LIBERTY TOWNSHIP	163
Location—Boundaries—Streams—Population—Early Settlement—First and Early Events—Voters in 1916.	
CHAPTER XVI—LINCOLN TOWNSHIP	166
Location—Drainage—Population—Settlement—Schools and Churches—Township Government—Voters in 1916.	
CHAPTER XVII—MARION TOWNSHIP	170
Boundaries—Population—Changes in Area—Settlers—The Poor Farm in 1889—Village of Oyens—Voters in 1916.	
CHAPTER XVIII—MEADOW TOWNSHIP	174
Location—Boundaries—Natural Features—Population—First Settlers—Voters in 1916.	
CHAPTER XIX—PERRY TOWNSHIP	177
Location—Streams—Population—Settlement—Early Events of Interest—Voters in 1916.	
CHAPTER XX—PLYMOUTH TOWNSHIP	180
Organization of the Township—Area—Location—Population—Railroads—The Old County Seat—Settlement—Early Incidents—Town of Merrill—Voters in 1916.	
CHAPTER XXI—PORTLAND TOWNSHIP	187
Location and Boundaries—Population—Settlement—Sod Shanties, the Common Habitation in Early Days—Early Tornadoes—Some Early Settlers and First Happenings—Town of Akron—Attractive Recreation Points—Voters in 1916.	
CHAPTER XXII—PRESTON TOWNSHIP	199
Location and Boundaries—Streams—Population—Settlers—Miscellaneous Items—Voters in 1916.	
CHAPTER XXIII—REMSSEN TOWNSHIP	203
Location—Population—Settlement—Town of Remsen—"Starvation Winter"—Voters in 1916.	
CHAPTER XXIV—SIOUX TOWNSHIP	212
Location—Natural Features—Population—Pioneers—D. M. Mills, the First Sheriff of Plymouth County—First Events—Mills's Experience with Indians—Finding of Human Skeleton—Voters in 1916.	
CHAPTER XXV—STANTON TOWNSHIP	217
Area—Streams—Population—Settlers—First and Important Early Events—Neptune Postoffice—Voters in 1916.	
CHAPTER XXVI—UNION TOWNSHIP	221
Organization—Location—Streams—Population—Settlement—First Events—Death by Prairie Fire—Voters in 1916.	
CHAPTER XXVII—WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP	224
Location—Railroads—Streams—Population—Settlement—Village of Dalton—Village of Brunsville—Voters in 1916.	

CONTENTS.

CHAPTER XXVIII—WESTFIELD TOWNSHIP	230
Boundaries and Area—Topography—Population—Settlement—Village of Westfield—Voters in 1916.	
CHAPTER XXIX—AGRICULTURE AND STOCKRAISING	235
Plymouth County, a Purely Agricultural District—Farm Statistics—Banner Townships—"Corn is King"—Registered Farm Names—Nationality of Farmers—Plymouth County Agricultural Society—Loss by Grasshoppers—Creameries—Great Corn Crib—Horticultural Society—The Grange Movement.	
CHAPTER XXX—RAILROADS OF THE COUNTY	246
Railroads, the Most Important Factor in the Development of Plymouth County—Railroad Land Grants—The First Grant and First Railroad—Other Railroads—Railroad Mileage.	
CHAPTER XXXI—EDUCATIONAL	252
Organization of the School System and Election of the First County Superintendent—The First School—Fluctuation of Population—First Normal Institute—Graded Schools—Work of County Superintendents—First Woman Superintendent—The Northwestern Normal School and Business College—Western Union College—Parochial Schools—Present Denominational Private Schools—Graded Public Schools—Consolidated Rural Schools—Flags and Trees—School Statistics, 1890—County Superintendent's Report for 1916.	
CHAPTER XXXII—CHURCHES OF PLYMOUTH COUNTY	270
Religious Statistics—United Evangelical Church—Episcopal Church—Methodist Episcopal Church—Free Methodist Church of North America—Christian Science Church—Congregational Church—Baptist Church—Catholic Church—United Brethren Church—German Methodist Episcopal Church—Evangelical Churches—Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church—Christian Church—Presbyterian Church—German Lutheran Church—Evangelical Lutheran Church—Scandinavian Lutheran Church—Union Church.	
CHAPTER XXXIII—NEWSPAPERS	319
A Brief History of Newspapers, Past and Present, at LeMars, Merrill, Akron (Portlandville), Kingsley, Remsen, Struble, Hinton and Craig.	
CHAPTER XXXIV—THE BENCH AND BAR	329
Judges of the Courts—Some Reminiscences of the Early Courts—The Bar of Plymouth County—Some of the Later Members—Law Firms in 1884—The Bar in 1916—The Bar Association.	
CHAPTER XXXV—THE MEDICAL PROFESSION	338
Early and Present Physicians at LeMars, Remsen, Akron, Kingsley, Merrill—"County Physicians" in 1916—Plymouth County Medical Society—Physicians Who Have Registered.	
CHAPTER XXXVI—BANKS AND BANKING	350
Banks and Bankers, Past and Present, at LeMars, Struble, Oyens, Kingsley, Brunsville, Craig, Westfield, Remsen, Akron, Merrill, Hinton.	

CONTENTS.

CHAPTER XXXVII—MILITARY HISTORY	359
War of the Rebellion—Bounties Paid—The Frontier Guards—Sioux City Cavalry Expedition—The Spirit Lake Massacre—Flag Presentation—Spanish- American War—Letter from a Soldier—Death of Louis Brick—LeMars Woman's Relief Corps—Good Report of the Fifty-second Regiment—The War with Mexico—A Soldier of Wooden-gun Fame—Iowa National Guard— Military Monument.	
CHAPTER XXXVIII—FRATERNAL AND BENEVOLENT SOCIETIES.....	379
Grand Army of the Republic—Woman's Relief Corps—Sons of Veterans— Ancient Free and Accepted Masons and Appendant Orders—Order of the Eastern Star—Independent Order of Odd Fellows and Appendant Orders— Knights of Pythias and Appendant Orders—Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks—Woman's Christian Temperance Union—Daughters of Isabelle— People's Fraternal Union—Woodmen of the World—Sons of Herman— Ancient Order of United Workmen—Modern Woodmen of America—Royal Neighbors of America—United Commercial Travelers—Ancient Order of the Red Cross—Catholic Order of Foresters—Independent Order of Foresters —Order of Highland Nobles—Yeomen of America—Fraternal Order of Eagles—Knights of Columbus—Modern Brotherhood of America—Fraternal Organization of Homesteaders.	
CHAPTER XXXIX—CITY OF LE MARS.....	407
Its Beginning and Early Growth—Some Important Early Events—Recollections of Early Days—Population—Postoffice History—Municipal History— City Hall—City Officials—Commercial Interests—Hotels—Some Early Mer- cantile Interests—Opera Houses—Early Happenings—Business Directory of 1871—Flour-milling Business—Waterworks and Electric-light Plant—Busi- ness Interests in 1890—Gas Works—Creamery Association—Ice Plant and Other Local Enterprises—Chautauqua Work—Fires—Improvement Company —Normal School Association—Public Library—Game of Polo—Clubs—A Famous Hotel—Business Interests in 1916.	
CHAPTER XL—REMINISCENCES	438
Valuable Historical Articles on Pioneer Days by C. M. Hilliker and Others— A Prairie Blizzard—Early Settlement—Some Early Pioneers—The Season of 1873—Customs of the Pioneers—An Early Revival Service—Early Dances— Disposition of Railroad Lands—Reminiscences of 1875—Cyclones and Storms —Pleasant Valley Settlement—The First Miller at Akron—"Mother" Gard- ner's Helpful Service—Centennial Year—Grasshoppers—Other Glimpses of Pioneer Days—First Brick Building in LeMars.	
CHAPTER XLI—SIDELIGHTS ON PLYMOUTH COUNTY HISTORY.....	465
List of Recorded Village Plats—Incorporated Towns—Telephone Companies —Postoffices—Important First Events—Oldest Persons in County—The Grasshopper Plague—Weather Reports—The 1899 Cyclone and Other Unusual Storms—Old Settlers' Society—A Swiss Celebration—Days of National Mourning—An Extensive Traveler—Comparative Land Values, 1914 —Automobiles—A Notable Land Case—A Destructive Flood—Market Quo- tations.	

CONTENTS.

APPENDIX	485
Population of Cities and Towns—Changes in Population—Foreign-born, According to Country of Birth—Native-born, According to State of Birth—Percentage of Nativity—Division of Population—Distribution of Population—Domestic Conditions—Occupations—Civil-war Veterans—Educational Statistics—Church Statistics—Assessment and Taxation—Distribution of Public Funds—Farms and Farmers—Crop Statistics—Fruits, Poultry, Dairy, Vegetables and Farm Animals.	

HISTORICAL INDEX

VOLUME I

A

Abundant Crops in 1873.....	446	Amphitheater Wrecked by Cyclone.....	243
Adaville	160	Ancient Free and Accepted Masons.....	382
A Genuine "Twister"	188	Ancient Order of the Red Cross.....	402
Agriculture	235	Ancient Order of United Workmen.....	398
Agricultural Society—		An Extensive Traveler	481
Details of Organization.....	242	Appendix	487
Exhibit at Sioux City.....	75	A Pessimistic Homesteader.....	138
First Annual Fair	243	Appropriation for New Court House	72
Initial Appropriation for.....	74	Armed Men Shoot Syrian Peddler.....	148
Agricultural Statistics	236	A Self-Made Lawyer	332
A "Hollering" Preacher	448	Assessment and Taxation	493
A Homesick Boy	439	Assessed Valuation of County.....	81
Akron—		Assessors of Incorporated Towns.....	94
Destructive Blaze	194	Assassination of Minister.....	305
Excellent Water Power	191	Auditors of Plymouth County.....	91
First Store in 1872	64	Automobiles	481
History of Postoffice	191		
Kendall Establishes Ferry	65		
Municipal History	192		
Originally Portlandville	190		
Platted in 1871	190, 465		
Present Business Interests.....	194		
Schools and Public Utilities.....	192		
Trading Point Established.....	64		
Akron Private Hospital.....	343		
Akron Register-Tribune, The.....	327		
Ambitious Townsite Promoters.....	58		
America Township—			
Boundaries and Origin of.....	99		
Early Settlement	99		
Eight Voters Organize Township.....	100		
Historic Events	100		
Origin of Name	99		
Population in 1870	99		
Some Early Settlers	102		
Voters of in 1916.....	104		
When Organized	99		
W. S. McCurdy First Settler.....	99		
Amos, Col. Frank	333		

B

"Bald-Headed Band," the.....	64
Bank Deposits	84
Banks and Banking	350-358
"Banner" Township of County.....	99
Baptist Churches	286-289
Bar of Plymouth County.....	331-337
Barr, Hanson	376
Beauty of Prairie Flowers	34
Beginning of Better Times.....	449
Beginning of Plymouth County.....	34, 66
"Belle Vista," a "Paper Town".....	148
Bench and Bar of Plymouth County.....	329
Benevolent Societies	379
Best-Looking Baby in County.....	243
Betsworth, Capt. B. F.....	99, 100, 101, 102, 107, 407, 409
Big Sioux Valley, History of.....	62
Big Wheat Farm	116
Bit Off Opponent's Nose.....	147
Black Hawk, Indian Chief	36
Black Hawk War, the	37
Black Hills Gold Excitement.....	320

HISTORICAL INDEX.

Blizzards of Early Days	64, 104, 440, 475
Blodgett, Deacon	101, 103, 411
Board of Supervisors	93
Bounties Paid for Soldiers	360
Bounty for Pocket-Gophers	79
Brick, Dr. Paul L.	339, 368
"Broken Kettle's" Ancient Origin	147, 444
Brunsville	227-465
Buried With Honors	368
Burned to Death in Prairie Fire	160, 222, 447
Burning of Union College	434
Business College	261
Business Directory of Merrill	184

C

Captain Betsworth Recollections	409
Caravans of Freighters	64
"Carlton Stock Farm"	150
Catholic Churches	290-302
Catholic Order of Foresters	402
Cavalry Expedition	362
Census Returns Covering County	487
Centennial Celebration in 1876	57, 457
Chase, Elder Ira	448
Chassell, Edward D.	90, 98, 321
Chautauqua Association Work	426
Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Ry.	249
Chicago & Northwestern Rd.	250, 251
Child Falls Into Deep Well	102
Christian Churches	309
Christian Science Church	284
Church Bells Tolded	305
Churches	270
Church Statistics	492
Circuit Judges	91
City of Le Mars	407-437
Civil War Period	359
Civil War Veterans	491
Clerks of the Court	92
Clouds of Grasshoppers	457
C. M. Hilliker's Story	438
Clerks of Townships	95
Coal Traces in County	54
Colony From Elgin Name Township	107
Coming of the Railroad	62
Coming of the Schneiders	181
Commercial Club of Le Mars	432
Comparative Land Values	481

Comparative Prices on Corn	484
Condemned Horses Sold	243
Congregational Churches	284
Congressmen From This District	90
Consolidated Rural Schools	264
Constitutional Convention	40, 43
Contributions From the East	470
Converted in a Storm	453
Converted to a Good Work	448
Corn Finally Crowned "King"	117
"Corn is King"	237
Coroners of Plymouth County	92
Costly Blaze at Akron	194
Costly Error in Building Plans	79
County Agricultural Society	72, 242
County Attorneys	92
County Captures "Tippecanoe" Ban- ner	98
County Census Returns	
County Exhibits Products	75
County Fair Association	244
County Fairs	243
County Government—	
Appropriation for Court House	72
Assessed Valuation of County	81
Assessment for 1870	71
Bid for Office Buildings	67
Building of Court House	72
Bond Issue of 1892	76
Contract for New Jail	76
County Treasurer Absconds	76
Criminal Expenses for 1915	86
Detached from Woodbury County	66
Dwelling House First Court House	67
Early Financial Embarrassment	68
Finances of County	82
First Board of Supervisors	68
First Officials	66
First Official Newspaper	72
Melbourne Court House Sold	73
New Jail Proposal Defeated	75
Present Court House	77
Public Roads	87
Receipts of County	83
Refunding Bond Issue	80
Sheriff's Report	84
Supervisors' Report	86
Supervisor System Created	66
Swamp Land Dispute	71
Tax Levy for 1861	68

HISTORICAL INDEX.

County Government—		Craig—	
The "One-Man Power".....	66	Active Commercial Center	140
Voting Strength in 1864.....	69	A Natural Townsite	140
County Helplessly in Debt.....	69	Municipal History	141
County Judges	90	Present Business Interests.....	141
County Officers in 1916	85	Record of Plat	465
County Officials	88	Craig Independent, The	328
County Officials—		Crathorne	160, 224
Assessors of Incorporated Towns	94	Creameries	244
Auditors	91	"Cream of Alaska"	425
Board of Supervisors	93	Creamery at Brunsville	228
Circuit Judges	91	Creation of Akron Township.....	79
Clerk of Courts	92	Creation of Elgin Township.....	71
Coroner	92	Creation of Johnson Township.....	71
County Attorney	93	Creation of Perry Township.....	71
County Judges	90	Creation of Stanton Township	71
District Judges	90	Credulous Investors Taken in.....	148
Drainage Commissioners	96	Criminal Expenses for 1915.....	87
Recorders	91	Crop Statistics	494
Sheriffs	92	Crude Mill of Pioneer Days.....	137
State Representatives	90	Curtis, Hon. H. C.....	90, 98, 481
Superintendent of Schools.....	90	Customs of the Pioneers.....	446
Surveyors	92	Cyclone's Destructive Work.....	452
Township Assessors	94	Cyclone of 1899	474
Township Clerks and Trustees.....	95	Cyclone Kills Young Men.....	123
Treasurers	91		
County Physicians	345		
County Poor Farm—			
Conditions in 1889	171		
First Tax Levy for	74		
Movement to Sell Defeated.....	77		
Present Steward of	80		
Value of Property	85		
County Seat, the	407, 437		
County's First Census	60		
County's First Postoffice	60		
County's First Religious Service.....	59		
County's First School	59		
County's First Townsite	58		
County's First Tragedy	61		
County's General Settlement.....	57		
County's Water Supply	55		
County Engineer Employed.....	80		
Country Club, the	432		
Court House at Melbourne.....	59		
Court House Bond Issue	78		
Court House Sold for \$31.....	73		
Court House Used as Store Room..	69		
Court Reminiscences	330		
Courts and Lawyers	329		

D

Dairy Statistics	495
Dalton	226, 465
Dances of Pioneer Days	449
Danish Evangelical Lutheran	
Church	308
"Dark Pall Shrouds the Nation"....	478
Days of Mourning.....	478
Daughters of Isabelle	396
Daughters of Rebekah	389
Death of General Grant	479
Death of President Garfield.....	478
Denominational Schools	263
Description of a Blizzard.....	440
Description of Prairie Fire.....	447
Des Moines Proclaimed Capital....	43
Desperate Midnight Charge	362
Destructive Blaze at Hinton	156
Destructive Blaze at Kingsley.....	130
Destructive Blaze at Merrill.....	185
Destructive Fires at Le Mars.....	426
Destructive Flood	482
Devices for Killing "Hoppers".....	471

HISTORICAL INDEX.

Diphtheria Ravages Many Homes.....	188
Discouragements Beset Pioneers.....	452
Disposition of Railroad Lands.....	450
Distribution of Population.....	491
Distribution of Public Funds.....	493
District Judges	90
Division of Population	490
Drainage Commissioners	96
Drainage of Plymouth County.....	45, 48
"Donation" Parties	448

E

Early Agricultural Statistics.....	243
Early County-Seat Promoters.....	58
Early Financial Embarrassment.....	68
Early Harvest in 1875	451
Early Legislation	41
Early Murder in Hancock Township	147
Editor Booms Homesteading	320
Educational	252
Educational Statistics	492
Effect of Homestead Act.....	61, 248
Eight Voters Organize Township..	100
Elevations in Plymouth County....	45
Elgin Township—	
Boundaries and Topography.....	106
Created in 1870	71, 106
First Child Born in	109
First School House	109
Origin of Name	107
Pioneer Settlers of	106
Population of	106
Voters of in 1916	112
Elkhorn Township—	
Boundaries and Origin	114
Early Settlement	114
Old Village of Quorn.....	114, 117, 467
Population of	114
Some "First" Events.....	116
Voters of in 1916.....	117
When Organized	114
Elk Point, Early Trading Station...	64
Emergency Association	368
English Urged to Settle Here.....	418
Episcopal Church	273
Evangelical Churches	306
Evangelical Lutheran Churches....	313
"Evansville"	280
Excessive Interest Rates	451
Exploration of New Territory.....	36

F

Farm Animals	495
Farmers Organize Brass Band.....	139
Farms and Farmers	493
Farm Names Registered	238
Farm Statistics	235
Father and Son Frozen to Death...	104
Ferries and Toll Rates Thereof....	68, 71
Fifty-Second Iowa Regiment.....	369
Finances of Plymouth County	82
Fire in a Tenement House.....	101
First Actual Settlement of County..	57
First Bank in County	350
First Boundaries of State.....	40
First Brick Building in Le Mars ...	463
First Board of Supervisors	68
First Doctor in County	338
First Census of Plymouth County...	60
First Church in County	271
First Constitutional Convention....	40
First Coroner's Inquest	61
First County Judge	58
First County Seat, Melbourne.....	59
First Court House at Melbourne....	59
First Deed Issued in County.....	469
First Flour-Mill in County.....	59
First Fort in Iowa	37
First General Assembly	41
First Governor of Iowa	39
First Hotel at Le Mars.....	414
First Hotel Hereabouts	63
First Miller at Akron	455
First Mill in the County	154
First Officials of County.....	66
First Postmaster at Le Mars.....	101
First Postoffice in County.....	60
First Prisoner Makes Escape....	67
First Railroad in County.....	62
First Railroad Land Grant	247
First Railroad Survey	103
First Real House in America Town- ship	100
First Religious Service in County...	59
First School in County	59
First Settler "Holds Fort".....	61
First Settlers, Names of.....	57
First Sheriff of County	213
First Store in Le Mars	100
First Village Plat in 1857.....	58, 217
Fish-Dams Ordered by County....	74

HISTORICAL INDEX.

Flags and Trees at Schools	264
Flag Presentation	364
Flood Creates Havoc	482
Fraternal and Benevolent Societies.....	379
Fraternal Order of Eagles	404
Free Methodist Church	283
Fredonia Township—	
A Pioneer's Reminiscences.....	122
Boundaries and Origin of	119
Coming of the Freemans	120
Early Settlement	119
Population of	119
Some "First" Events	121
Voters of in 1916	123
Fremont Club, the	97
Frontier Guards, the	360
Fruit Values	494
Ft. Madison Attacked	37

G

Garfield Township—	
Boundaries and Origin of.....	125
Early Settlement	125
Chief Trading Point	126
Population of	125
Some "First" Events	126
Voters of in 1916	132
General Settlement of County.....	57
Geology of Plymouth County	44
Germans Erect Chapel Early	59
German Lutheran Churches	312
German Methodist Episcopal Church.....	304
Glimpse of Pioneer Days	462
"Globe Trotter" Settles Down.....	108
Gloom, Sadness and Poverty.....	47
"God Bless Mother".....	476
Graded Schools	256
Graded Public Schools	263
Grand Army of the Republic.....	379
Grange Movement	345
Grant Township—	
Boundaries and Origin of.....	135
Early Settlement	135
Notes Regarding Pioneers	137
Old Village of Mammen.....	139
Population of	135
Some "First" Events	139
Village of Craig	140
Voters of in 1916	142

Grasshopper Invasion.....	61, 65, 72, 103, 123, 146, 175, 179, 181, 188, 201, 243, 456, 470
Great Corn Cribs	244
Great Northern Railroad	250
Great Transformation Effected.....	120
Green Chemical Company.....	425
Groves Planted by Homesteaders	
.....	201, 204, 225, 445

H

Hancock Township—	
Boundaries and Origin	144
Early Settlement	144
Pre-historic Evidences	146
Population of	144
Some "First" Events	146
Voters of in 1916	149
Hanging of Rebellious Sioux.....	248
"Happy Corners"	219
Hardships of the Pioneers.....	440
Hard Times Strike Westfield.....	70
Henry Township—	
Boundaries and Origin of	150
Early Settlers	150
Population of	150
Some "First" Events	151
Voters of in 1916	152
High Interest on Loans	451
High Water Mark in 1870.....	121
Hillebrand, Dr. C. M.....	341
Hines, Dr. J. W.	339
Hinton—	
Destructive Blaze	156
Established in 1883	155
Present Business Interests.....	155
Record of Plat	465
Hinton Gazette, The	327
"Historical Atlas"	218
Historical Reminiscences	438
History of the Big Sioux Valley.....	62
History of Fifteen Treaties.....	38
Homestead Act	64, 248
Homestead Act Stimulates Settle- ment	61
Horse Frozen to Death in Stall.....	104
Horticultural Society	245
How Did They Manage to Live?.....	461
How Le Mars Got Its Name.....	437
Humane Movement Indorsed.....	76

HISTORICAL INDEX.

Hungerford Township—	
Boundaries and Origin of-----	153
Early Settlement -----	153
Population of -----	153
Some "First" Events -----	154
Village of Hinton -----	155
Village of James -----	156
Voters of in 1916 -----	156
Hunting Deer in 1868 -----	107

I

Illinois Central Railroad—	
Old Iowa Falls & Sioux City-----	62
Opened Era of Prosperity -----	249
Preliminary Survey -----	103
Stimulation to Settlement -----	62
Illinois Indians -----	35
Important "First" Events-----	469
Incident of Homestead Life-----	109
Incorporated Towns -----	467
Independent Order of Foresters-----	403
Independent Order of Odd Fellows	388
Indian Depredations -----	361
Indian Lands Bought -----	34
Indian Occupancy -----	33
Indians Depart in Peace -----	34
Indians Eat Rotten Squashes -----	410
Indians Quelled by Pioneer-----	215
Indians Relinquish Title -----	38
Indians Removed to Kansas-----	33
Indian Scare in 1862 -----	60
Incorporation of Remsen -----	205
Infant's Miraculous Escape -----	453
Inmates at State Institutions -----	85
Iowa and Missouri Clash-----	39
Iowa Arms for War -----	39
Iowa City Loses Capital -----	43
Iowa Indians -----	34
Iowa Made a State -----	40
Iowa National Guard -----	377
Iowa Territory -----	33, 38
Iowa's First Legislature -----	39, 41
Iowa's Last Indian Scare -----	60
Iowa's Worst Snow Winter-----	121

J

James -----	156, 465
Jacob Rubel's Pioneer Experience--	107
John Schneider's Story -----	57

Johnson Township—	
Adaville and Crathorne -----	160
Boundaries and Origin of-----	158
Created in 1870 -----	71
Early Settlement -----	158
Fatal Prairie Fire -----	160
Population of -----	158
Voters of in 1916 -----	161
Jones, Gen. George -----	33
Judge's Power in Early Days-----	66
Judiciary, the -----	329
"Junction," An Early Townsite----	58
Jurors Hard to Find -----	480

K

Keokuk, "Watchful Fox"-----	37
Killed Deer With Clubs-----	453
Kingsley—	
Business Interests in 1916-----	127
Fine New School Building-----	129
Municipal History -----	131
Population of -----	126
Public Library -----	130
Record of Plat -----	465
Some Destructive Fires -----	130
Supersedes Quorn Townsite-----	114
Waterworks and Electric Light----	130
When Incorporated -----	126
Kingsley News-Times, The -----	325
Kingsley Times, The -----	325
Kingsley's Bustling Activities -----	126
Kisses for Departing Soldiers-----	375
Knights of Columbus -----	404
Knights of Pythias -----	391
Knights Templar -----	384

L

Land Forms in Plymouth County--	46
Land Grants Revert -----	188
Land Held by Speculators-----	187
Land Speculators Checked-----	248
Land Values -----	481
Last Treaty With Indians -----	33
Law Firms in 1884-----	336
Lawyer's Singular "Shingles"-----	335
Leffler, Hon. Shepherd -----	40
Le Mars, the County Seat —	
A Famous Hotel -----	433
An Early Directory -----	417

HISTORICAL INDEX.

Le Mars—	
Building Court House and Jail	73
Business Directory in 1890	422
City's Composite Name	407
Commercial Club	432
Commercial Interests	414
Conditions in 1871	408
Early Mercantile Enterprises	415
First Postmaster	10
First Settler	407
Flour-Milling Business	419
Important "First" Events	408
Improvement Company	427
Laid Out in 1869	62
Municipal History	412
Normal School Association	328
Population of	411
Postoffice	411
Present Business Interests	434
Public Library	428
Record of Plat	465
Secures Court House	62, 72
Variety of Industries	424, 426
Waterworks and Electric Lights	421
Le Mars Creamery Association	424
Le Mars Democrat, The	323
Le Mars Globe-Post, The	324
Le Mars Herald, The	322
Le Mars Sentinel, The	319
Letter From a Soldier	367
Levy for County Poor Farm	74
Liberty Township—	
Boundaries and Origin	163
Early Settlement	163
Population of	163
Some "First" Events	164
Voters of in 1916	164
Lightning Kills Laughing Man	146
Lincoln Township—	
Boundaries and Origin of	166
Early Settlement	166
Organized in 1860	60
Population of	166
Schools and Churches	168
Township Government	168
Voters of in 1916	168
Literacy Statistics	492
Live Stock Statistics	495
Live Stock Washed Away	482
Location of State Capital	41, 43
Long Trip to Blacksmith Shop	102

Loss by Grasshoppers-----	243
Lost in Blinding Blizzard-----	201, 441
Louisiana Purchase -----	36

M

Made Grant's Uniform	375
Made Wooden Guns	376
Mammen Left Off the Map	140
Marion Township—	
Boundaries and Origin of	170
Early Settlement	170
Population of	170
Village of Oyens	172
Voters of in 1916	172
Market Quotations	483
Masonry in Plymouth County	382
Mat. Wurth's Reminiscences	122
Meadow Township—	
Boundaries and Origin	174
Early Settlement	174
Population of	174
Voters of in 1916	175
Medical Profession, the	338
Melbourne, First County Seat—	
Court House Removed	62, 72
First School in County	59
First Postoffice in County	60
Laid Out in 1859	59
Record of Plat	466
Melbourne, First County Seat	59
Memorable Winter of 1880-81	121, 453
Memories of Other Days	136
Merrill—	
Conditions in 1871	438
Directory for 1890	183
Destructive Blaze	185
Frost Addition in 1888	182
Incorporation of	185
Platted in 1872	182
Postoffice Established	182
Present Business Interests	184
Record of Plat	466
Waterworks and Electric Lights	183
Merrill Record, The	324
Methodist Episcopal Church	274-284
Michigan Territory	33
"Middle Kingdom of America"	33
Mild Winter of 1857-58	58
Military History	359-378
Military Monument	377

HISTORICAL INDEX.

Milling Statistics	244
Mills, Hon. D. M.	57, 61, 69, 70, 212, 214, 443
Mineral Products of County	52
Missouri Indians	34
Mistrust Among the Indians	37
Modern Brotherhood of America	404
Modern Woodmen of America	399
Monument to Plymouth Soldiers	377
More About Pioneer Days	447
"Mother" Gardner's Ministrations	455
Mound Builders	35, 146
Municipal Ownership at Akron	193
Murdered by Sioux Warriors	63
Mutual Forbearance Commended	39

Mc

McKinley Memorial Service	480
---------------------------------	-----

N

Names of First Settlers	57
Nationality of Farmers	242
Neighbors Were Neighborly Then	102
New Jail Proposal Defeated	75
Neptune, Star-Route Postoffice	219
Neville Redmon's Story	102
Newspapers of Plymouth County	319-328
Newspapers That Failed	323
Normal Institute	255
Normal School Association	428
Northwestern Normal School	260
Notable Land Case	481
Not a Tree in Sight	199
Novel Grain Elevator	182
Number of Voters in Akron	198

O

Occupation Statistics	491
Officials of Plymouth County	88
Old Albion Hotel	433
Old County Seat	180, 466
Oldest "Lodge" in County	389
Oldest Persons in County	469
Old Portlandville	191
Oldest Townsite in County	217
Old Settlers' Society	476
Old-Time Revival Service	448

Omaha Indians	34
"Omaha" Railroad	249
Order of Elks	395
Order of Highland Nobles	403
Order of Homesteaders	405
Order of the Eastern Star	384
Organization of America Township	99
Organization of County	34-66
Organization of Elgin Township	106
Organization of Elkhorn Township	114
Organization of Fredonia Township	119
Organization of Garfield Township	125
Organization of Grant Township	135
Organization of Hancock Township	144
Organization of Henry Township	150
Organization of Hungerford Town- ship	153
Organization of Johnson Township	158
Organization of Liberty Twnship	163
Organization of Lincoln Township	166
Organization of Marion Township	170
Organization of Meadow Township	174
Organization of Perry Township	177
Organization of Plymouth Town- ship	180
Organization of Portland Township	187
Organization of Preston Township	199
Organization of Remsen Township	203
Organization of Sioux Township	212
Organization of Stanton Township	217
Organization of Union Township	221
Organization of Washington Town- ship	224
Organization of Westfield Town- ship	230
Origin of Seney	110
Origin of Struble	110
Oyens—	
Date of Incorporation	172
On Illinois Central Line	119
Present Business Interests	172
Record of Plat	466

P

Parochial Schools	262
Patriarchs Militant	388
Pauper Funerals Provided for	77, 80
Peoples Fraternal Union	397
People Vote for New Jail	75

HISTORICAL INDEX.

Perry Township—		Postoffices in County	468
Boundaries and Origin of	177	Postoffice Robbery	412
Created in 1870	71	Poultry Statistics	495
Early Settlement	177	Poverty Proved a Blessing	201
Population of	177	Power of Early County Judge	66
Some "First" Events	178	Prairie Club, the	431
Voters of in 1916	179	Prairie Fire's Tragic Ravages	160, 222
Physicians of Plymouth County	338-349	Pre-historic Race	35
Physicians in 1884	341	Presbyterian Churches	311
Picnics of Early Days	449	Presidential Vote of County	89
Pioneer Captures an Elk	104	Preston Township—	
Pioneer Church	270	Boundaries and Origin of	199
Pioneer Defies Soldiers	215	Early Settlement	199
Pioneer Foundry	425	Population of	199
Pioneers Terrorized by Indians	60	"Then and Now"	201
Pioneers Cry for Help	362	Voters of in 1916	202
Pioneers Demand Railroad	71	Prices of Corn	484
Pioneer Tale of Grasshoppers	103	Privations Follows Devastation	457
Pleasant Valley	448, 454	Public Funds Distribution	493
Plymouth City	58, 217, 466	Public Library at Le Mars	428
Plymouth County Banks	350, 358	Products of New Soil	445
Plymouth County Bar Association	337	Public Roads	87
Plymouth County in War	359, 378	Pure-Water Expedition	410
Plymouth County Medical Society	345	Pythian Sisters	392
Plymouth County Organized	34, 66		
Plymouth County Record, the	325		
Plymouth County Soil	55		
Plymouth, First Townsite	58, 466		
Plymouth Rolling Mills	420		
Plymouth Township—			
Boundaries and Origin	58		
Early Settlement	180		
Oldest Village in County	180		
One of First Townships	67		
Population of	180		
Some "First" Events	181		
The Town of Merrill	182		
Voters of in 1916	185		
When Organized	58		
Political Changes	98		
Pony Polo in Former Days	430		
Population Statistics	487		
Portland Township—			
Boundaries and Origin	187		
Early Settlement	187		
Population of	187		
Some "First" Events	190		
Town of Akron	190		
Voters of in 1916	196		
"Portlandville" Becomes Akron	190		
Portlandville Blade, The	325		

HISTORICAL INDEX.

Remsen—		Schools—	
Business Interests in 1890.....	205	Superintendent's Meager Pay.....	254
Incorporation of	205	Vote on Free Text Books	76
Platted in 1876	204	Western Union College	266
Postoffice History	206	School Taught in Granary	121
Present Business Interests	207	Schwind, Dr. Peter	340
Record of Plat	467	Second State Constitution	43
Trying Winter of 1880-81.....	206	Semi-Weekly Sentinel, the	322
Remsen Bell-Enterprise, the	326	Seney—	
Remsen News, the	326	Had Its Beginning in 1873.....	110
Remsen Township—		History of Postoffice	110
Boundaries and Origin of.....	203	On the "Omaha" Railroad	106
Early Commercial Enterprises.....	205	Present Business Firms	110
Early Settlement.....	203	Record of Plat	467
Population of	203	Setback to Settlement	61
The Town of Remsen	204	Settled Title to Land	481
Voters of in 1916	209	Settlement of Plymouth County....	57
Westfield Township	74	Settlement Receives Setback.....	61
Reward for Paying Coal Vein.....	72, 75	Settlers Fled From Indians.....	60
Richest Soil in County.....	119	Settler's Personal Experience.....	460
Richey, Dr. M. W.	340	Sheets, A. E., a Pioneer.....	57, 60
Rival County-Seat Designs.....	58	Sheriffs of Plymouth County.....	92
Road Tractor Bought by County....	80	Sheriff's Report for 1915.....	85
Routine of Camp Life	371	Sidelights	465
Royal Neighbors of America.....	400	Signs of Coal Along Big Sioux.....	147
Rum and Desolation	470	Singing School in the Seventies....	449
Russian Thistles Under Ban.....	76	Sioux, a Warlike Nation.....	36
		Sioux Boundary Line	36
		Sioux City Cavalry.....	363
		Sioux City Erects Stockade.....	60
		Sioux Township—	
		Boundaries and Origin of.....	212
		Early Settlement	212
		Population of	212
		Some "First" Events	214
		Voters of in 1916	216
		Sioux Valley House, First Hotel....	63
		"Sixty Years Ago, My County"....	35
		Skeleton Provides Mystery	216
		Slain by Sioux Warriors	63
		Slept More Than Two Days.....	455
		Smith, Dr. William Remsen.....	204, 362
		Snow Blockade of 1880-81.....	206
		Snow Until First of May.....	464
		Social Equality Among Pioneers....	449
		Sod Shanties Common Habitations..	188
		Soil of Plymouth County.....	55
		Soldier Boys Given "Send-Off"....	374
		Soldiers Occupy Court House.....	69
		Some Recorded Temperatures.....	472
		Something for All to Do.....	476

HISTORICAL INDEX.

Sons of Herman	398
Sons of Veterans	382
Sowed Wheat in February	460
Spanish-American War	365
Stanton Township—	
Boundaries and Origin	217
Created in 1870	71
Early Settlement	217
Population of	217
Some "First" Events	219
Voters of in 1916	219
Starvation Seemed Unavoidable	458
"Starvation Winter"	206
"State-Line War," the	39
State Representatives	90
State University Established	41
Statistics on Agriculture	236
Statistics on Churches	270
Statistics of Occupation	491
Statistics on Schools	264
Statistics on Stock Raising	237
Statistics Relating to Crops	494
Stockade at Sioux City	60
Stockraising	235
Story of Moses K. DuBois	199
Streams of Plymouth County	48
Striking Experience of 1877-78	459
Struble—	
Business Interests	111
Named for Congressman Struble	110
On Great Northern Railroad	106
Postoffice Established in 1890	111
Record of Plat	467
Town Hall and Fire Department	112
When Incorporated	112
Struble, Hon. Isaac S.	333
Struble Journal, the	327
Struble News, the	327
Superintendent of Schools	92-257-265
Supervisors of Plymouth County	93
Supervisors' Report for 1915	86
Surveyors of Plymouth County	92
Surrell Benoist, a Pioneer	144
Swamp-Land Dispute Arises Early	71
Swiss Celebration	477

T

Taxes Remitted by Supervisors	73
Telephone Companies	467
Territorial Legislature	40

The Deserted Village	139
Timber Only Along the Streams	103
Title to Land Settled	481
Topography of Plymouth County	44
Tornadoes Create Havoc	188, 452
Town of Akron	190
Town of Merrill	182, 466
Town of Remsen	204, 467
Township Assessors	94
Township Clerks and Trustees	95
Towns Incorporated in County	467
Townsite Promoters Busy Early	58
Tragic Incident Recalled	305
Treasurers of Plymouth County	91
Treaty of 1804 Renewed	37
Treaty of November, 1804	36
Trotting Park Association	243
Trustees of Townships	95

U

"Uncle George" Dailey	136
"Uncrowned Kings"	235
Uniform Rank, Knights of Pythias	392
Union Church	318
Union College Burned	434
Union Township—	
Boundaries and Origin of	221
Early Settlement	221
Population of	221
Schools of	264
Some "First" Events	222
Voters of in 1916	223
United Brethren Churches	302
United Commercial Travelers	401
United Evangelical Church	270, 273

V

Value of Fruits Grown	494
Value of Poor-Farm Property	85
Van O'Linda, Judge William	58, 67, 469
Vegetables and Their Value	495
Veterans of Civil War	491
Victim of Cyclone in 1880	179
Village of Brunsville	227, 465
Village of Craig	140
Village of Dalton	226, 251
Village of Hinton	155
Village of James	156, 465
Village of Oyens	172, 466

HISTORICAL INDEX.

Village of Westfield	231, 467
Village Plats as Recorded	465
Visit From Governor Shaw	372
Voted for "The Pathfinder"	97
Vote for New Court House	77
Vote on Governors	89
Vote on Loan Rescinded	73
Vote on Prohibition Amendment ..	96
Voters of America Township	104
Voters of Elgin Township	112
Voters of Elkhorn Township	117
Voters of Fredonia Township	123
Voters of Garfield Township	132
Voters of Grant Township	142
Voters of Hancock Township	149
Voters of Henry Township	152
Voters of Hungerford Township ..	156
Voters of Johnson Township	161
Voters of Liberty Township	164
Voters of Lincoln Township	168
Voters of Marion Township	172
Voters of Meadow Township	175
Voters of Perry Township	179
Voters of Plymouth Township	185
Voters of Portland Township	196
Voters of Preston Township	202
Voters of Remsen Township	209
Voters of Sioux Township	216
Voters of Stanton Township	219
Voters of Union Township	223
Voters of Washington Township ..	228
Voters of Westfield Township	233
Voting Strength in 1864	69

W

Wagon Bridges Swept Away	121
War Draft in Plymouth County	359
War of 1812	37
"War" With Mexico in 1916	373
Washington Township—	
Boundaries and Origin of	224
Early Settlement	224

Washington Township—	
Population of	224
Village of Brunsville	227
Village of Dalton	226
Voters of in 1916	228
Water Supply of County	55
White Settlement	33
Weather Reports	472
Western Sioux Indians	34
Western Union College	266
Westfield—	
Officers of Village	232
Platted in 1877	231, 467
Postoffice History	232
Present Business Interests	232
Westfield Township—	
Boundaries and Origin of	230
Depopulated by Hard Times	70
Early Settlement	231
One of First Townships	67
Population of	230
Revival of Township	74
Village of Westfield	231
Voters of in 1916	233
When Organized	58
Wind-mill Started in 1859	59
Wisconsin Territory	33
Woman and Three Children Perish ..	101
Woman County Superintendent	259
Woman Killed by Lightning	102
Woman's Christian Temperance	
Union	395
Woman's Relief Corps	368, 381
Women Cheer Soldiers	364
Woodmen of the World	397, 405

Y

Yankton and Santee Indians	34
Yeomen of America	403
Young Men's Christian Association ..	426
Young Settler Killed by Lightning ..	122

BIOGRAPHICAL INDEX

VOLUME II

A

Adler, Chris F.	85
Ahern, Patrick H.	810
Ahlers, H. A.	315
Ahmann, John H.	145
Ahmann, Joseph	201
Ahrendt, Fred	799
Alesh, John	658
Allison, John	525
Anderson, F. Oscar	343
Anderson, H. C.	794
Anderson, Henry A.	717
Arendt, Peter	405
Arens, Peter	105

B

Bainbridge, John	387
Bainbridge, Joseph	383
Barnable, John	774
Bauer, C. H.	431
Baune, Henry	743
Beardsley, Jesse H.	37
Beck, Charles	545
Beck, J. P.	125
Becker, John	344
Becker, Joseph	647
Beelner, Frank	65
Beely, John	60
Beitelspacher, Charles	644
Bender, George H.	371
Benjegerdes, George H.	80
Bennett, Charles	337
Berner, Christian	587
Berner, Gottlieb E.	515
Berner, Jacob F.	459
Betsworth, Capt. B. F.	295
Beyer, Henry K.	763
Bingenheimer, Charles F.	183

Binneboese, August	592
Blair, Hon. John I.	308
Blodget, John	307
Blood, Jared P.	653
Boever, Paul	486
Boever, Philip	115
Bogen, John	143
Bohlken, Dick	435
Bohnenkamp, Frank J.	305
Bollinger, Victor	327
Bolser, Willis G.	33
Bonnes, Ole	678
Borchers, Bernhard	698
Borchers, Eilert	539
Borchers, Henry	684
Bortscheller, Frank	783
Bortscheller, John	294
Braband, Frank	668
Brady, Charles G.	436
Brown, Oliver C.	640
Brucher, Michael	181
Bruford, Edward S.	666
Brunken, Brunke	432
Bruscher, John B.	663
Bryant, J. C.	692
Bryant, Nathan B.	91
Buehler, George	440
Burkard, Frederick	615
Burrill, George W.	238
Butcher, Charles L.	107

C

Callaghan, Henry J.	728
Campbell, J. W.	385
Campbell, John A.	230
Carel, Edward	135
Carel, James	198
Carel, William	116

BIOGRAPHICAL INDEX.

Carey, Rev. Michael	340
Case, Thomas	760
Casper, Peter	409
Cassel, David	397
Chassell, Hon. Edward D.	464
Cilley, Rufus H.	731
Clarey, Lawrence C.	616
Clarke, Adam A.	599
Clarke, DeWitt C.	736
Clarke, George A. C.	267
Cobb, Edward F.	434
Cody, W. E., M. D.	391
Colling, Peter	542
Collmann, Henry C.	560
Creasey, Stephen	129
Croon, Onno	278
Crouch, Andrew W.	184
Cunningham, J. B.	473

D

Dalton, Patrick F.	49
Davis, James J.	152
Deegan, William H.	399
DeLambert, Claud F.	423
Demaray, Alfred	206
Dennler, A. H.	68
Dennler, George J.	168
Dennler, Gust A.	716
Dennler, William E.	813
Detloff, Arthur	527
Detloff, Henry	62
Doering, John	571
Dornbusch, Ahmel P.	236
Dreckman, Frank J.	363
Dreeszen, Henry F.	217

E

Eastman, E. E.	197
Eberhard, Charles D.	709
Edwards, John J.	623
Eilenbecker, Eugene	93
Elliott, James J.	590
Elliott, Thomas L.	642
Ellis, P. L., D. V. M.	430
Ellison, George	757
Elsen, Peter	795
Emmert, Philip	772
Engelbrecht, Gehrt	558
Erichsen, Detlef	204

Erickson, Hans	233
Erikson, John	507
Erks, Rudolph	619
Ernster, Nick	742
Ewers, George A.	246

F

Faber, Mathew R.	355
Falke, Henry	121
Farrell, George	390
Farrell, Patrick	224
Feeney, William	544
Feuerstein, The Rt. Rev. Mgr. F. X.	96
Figg, R. M., D. D. S.	175
Flannery, William	652
Freeman, Wilbert S.	448
Frerichs, Claas B.	700
Frerichs, George H.	695
Fry, Alfred	138

G

Gabel, Michael	127
Gallagher, T. B.	241
Galles, Charles	629
Galles, John W.	190
Gamerding, Jacob F.	41
Gaspar, Edgar M.	279
Gengler, Nicholas	288
Gengler, Theodore	275
Gilbert, Rev. Ernest E.	292
Gillespie, James C.	296
Gorman, James F.	516
Goudie, F. J.	788
Griffith, Gwynne J.	564
Groetken, Gerhard H.	534
Groetken, Herman J.	319
Gronemeyer, Fred	720
Grotken, Henry F.	803
Gruber, Henry	662

H

Haas, Edward C.	420
Hahn, Charles	631
Hansen, P. N.	739
Hardie, David W.	406
Hardie, Thomas C.	547
Harker, John V.	463

BIOGRAPHICAL INDEX.

Harker, George W.	456
Harms, Ihnke	618
Harnack, John F. C.	324
Harris, Reese	690
Hart, O. D.	177
Harvey, David	768
Harvey, Sam C.	45
Hatz, Martin	470
Hatz, Nick	163
Hauff, C. C.	414
Hauschildt, John W.	488
Hayden, Philip	737
Hayes, J. M.	123
Hearn, Finley	378
Heimgartner, Henry A.	381
Heinis, Joseph	493
Heissel, Fidel	249
Heissel, John	740
Heissel, Joseph J.	773
Held, Benjamin F.	341
Held, Erhard	424
Held, Frederick W.	38
Held, John	608
Held, Philip	681
Held, Philip E.	472
Helm, August	526
Henrich, Adam	51
Hentges, J. A.	71
Hentges, John	147
Herbst, Jacob	792
Hilliker, Charles M.	441
Hillrichs, Henry	694
Hinde, John R.	413
Hodgson, Robert	187
Hoese, Frank	528
Hoffman, John	227
Hoffman, John P.	771
Hoffman, Lewis J.	805
Hoke, J. C.	169
Holzman, Frank	761
Homan, Peter	484
Hombach, William H., M. D.	489
Hoss, Hubert	269
Hotham, George	218
Hoyt, Harry C.	777
Hoyt, J. S.	167
Huebsch, Michael	99
Hughes, Patrick H.	323
Hunter, Dale	131

I

Irwin, George W.	494
-----------------------	-----

J

Jacobs, John	627
Jastram, A. H., M. D.	483
Jeffers Family, The	594
Johnson, Henry G.	291
Johnson, Jergen	475
Johnson, Richard	352
Joynt, R. J., D. D. S.	759
Julian, W. A.	394
Justman, A. L.	245

K

Kaiser, John F.	256
Kaiser, Math	782
Kammeier, Henry	523
Kannow, Charles F.	364
Keegan, Daniel	780
Keenan, John	778
Keffeler, Joseph	561
Kellen, William	273
Kelley, Charles	754
Kelley, James E.	55
Kelly, George	226
Kemp, Henry	784
Kennedy, Jobe	360
Kennedy, Michael	101
Kieffer, Eugene F.	490
Kilburg, Nicholas	755
Kistle, William T.	104
Kitterman, E. S.	576
Klauer, E. P.	444
Kleihauer, Henry J.	708
Kleinschnitz, John P.	162
Kloster, Christian P.	522
Kloster, Thorvald	786
Klostermann, Frank J.	211
Kluckhohn, Charles H.	272
Knapp, Cyrus P.	671
Knapp, Noah R.	82
Knowles, Charles L.	140
Knowlton, Alvah S.	556
Knudsen, Peter	366
Koch, August	476
Koch, Peter H.	492

BIOGRAPHICAL INDEX.

Koenig, Jacob G.	250
Kohler, Henry E.	508
Kolbeck, Klem	178
Kowalke, Albert	369
Kramer, J. H.	779
Krapf, George J.	225
Krogmann, Franz J.	638
Kruse, John H.	753
Kunkel, Frank A.	312
Kusch, Fred	263

L

LeBahn, William	597
Ladenthin, Jacob E.	359
Lanners, Mathias	408
Lauters, Peter	505
Laux, Emil	235
Lawrence, William J.	346
Lenertz, Frank	214
Liechty, E. J., M. D.	151
Lilly, Grove	149
List, T. S., D. V. M.	479
Long, R. J. M.	471
Loraditch, William H.	342
Loutsch, John	503
Lubben, Albert	538
Luce, George D.	604
Luchsinger, Daniel	501
Ludwig, Cornelius	171
Ludwig, Frank	565
Ludwig, J. P.	748
Ludwig, John	301
Ludwigs, John	712

Mc

McArthur, Alex	379
McArthur, Duncan F.	578
McCartney, James	282
McCartney, William	775
McDougall, Alex.	566
McDougall, James N.	746
McElhaney, Frank F.	675
McGillvery, John	657
McKibbin, William S.	349
McMullen, M. C.	158

M

Mackinnon, Peter	584
Madden, Michael	128

Main, George B.	645
Mammen, Claas S.	203
Mammen, H. John	540
Mandelkow, Herman	537
Mandelkow, John	574
Mandelkow, William F.	388
Mansfield, John	86
Mansfield, Mathew T.	541
March, John F.	428
Marcue, W. G.	402
Martin, Ira T.	357
Mase, James F.	787
Mason, Hugh	73
Mason, W. H.	100
Mathwig, Julius	744
Mauer, A. M.	422
Maxwell, Hugh A.	320
Mayrose, Joseph	298
Meckes, Robert W.	386
Mehlhop, John H.	467
Meinen, Henry	635
Meinert, Fred G.	141
Meyer, Barney	164
Meyer, Rev. J. D.	793
Miller, Barth	533
Miller, J. G.	686
Miller, Thomas	585
Mills, Frank P.	496
Mills, Milo S.	56
Mock, Rev. Charles A., Ph. D.	64
Mohning, Herman H.	53
Mohr, E. C. F.	347
Molzen, Nicolai	530
Montagne, Cais	67
Moran, Peter J.	722
Morf, J. Henry	314
Morrison, Alex R.	660
Moxey, George M.	724
Muecke, William	374
Mueller, Peter	271
Mulheron, Lawrence	70
Munsch, Christian	711
Murphy, Rev. J. J.	88
Murray, George	231

N

Naffziger, Armand, M. D.	624
Nason, J. H.	75
Neisins, Mike	734
Neveln, Prof. S. T.	209

BIOGRAPHICAL INDEX.

Nicholson, William	321
Nilles, Peter	481
Nitzschke, Hermann	518
Noahr, Frank L.	287
Noble, Albert P.	600
Nothem, Hubert	124
Nuebel, Paul	243
Nuel, August	110
Null, William R.	582
Nussbaum, George	654
Nussbaum, Jacob	260

O

Obereken, Nicholas	200
O'Brien, Daniel	262
O'Bryan, John D.	679
Oloff, Lewis C.	621
Oltmann, D. A.	48
Ommen, Henry W.	800
Onken, Fred	648
O'Rielly, Patrick X.	446
Osterbuhr, Gerd	589
Ostrom, Ernest	469

P

Payne, Randolph	194
Payne, Wyndham R.	47
Pearson, Ira	325
Peterson, John C.	264
Phelps, George H.	240
Pick, Jacob	551
Pike, Charles C.	97
Pike, John N.	42
Pinney, Charles L.	265
Plahn, John H.	480
Plath, Erna H.	248
Poeckes, Jacob	550
Pollock, J. H.	673
Popken, Adolph	601
Post, Frank A.	157
Pratt, J. W.	372
Pratt, Thomas J.	723
Preston, Willis	804
Prust, August	270

R

Rætz, John	180
Rainboth, Elmer	758

Randall, J. W.	299
Raveling, Peter	170
Ray, Frank	375
Rayburn, Zwingie	415
Riechel, Herman	625
Reints, Harry	575
Reisch, Peter	192
Rembe, George	253
Rembe, George A.	702
Renken, Jurgen	280
Reudy, John	805
Rhodes, U. G.	461
Richardson, Frank W.	362
Richardson, John	189
Riemenschneider, A. F.	419
Rinehart, Thomas	165
Roepke, Carl	560
Roepke, Fritz	504
Rohlf, Charles J.	410
Rohlfs, J. H.	633
Rohrich, Charles	798
Rolfes, Rev. Henry	52
Roling, Fred	785
Rolling, John P.	112
Rollins, Francis M.	641
Root, Lewis F.	449
Rosburg, Charles L.	173
Rosburg, Paul	718
Roseberry, Frank M.	144
Ruba, Barthel	384
Ruba, Mat	752
Ruble, John C.	160

S

Sayer, John A.	311
Schindel, H. H.	762
Schindel, Jacob J.	411
Schindel, William	766
Schmidt, Julius H.	134
Schmidt, Nick W.	329
Schmitz, Louis	376
Schneider, Charles	258
Schneider, Chris	332
Schneider, Henry	416
Schneider, John	400
Schneider, John C.	672
Schneider, Philip	749
Schroder, George W.	455
Schroeder, John	368

BIOGRAPHICAL INDEX.

Schroeder, John P.	290
Schulte, Rev. Francis	136
Schulte, Louis H.	77
Schultz, Robert	90
Schweitzberger, William	398
Schweppe, Henry	276
Scott, Jason	213
Seal, Henry	40
Seaman, P. A.	318
Searls, Daniel J.	649
Shea, Jerry	284
Shearon, Peter C.	229
Shepard, William T., M. D.	78
Shoulberg, Henning	438
Simeon, William	688
Singer, Leonard A.	767
Smith, Frank J.	36
Smith, Harry L.	439
Smith, Ray A.	425
Smith, Robert G.	222
Southwick, J. P.	632
Spaulding, Edmund H., Sr.	512
Spiecker, Frank	118
Spies, George	765
Spies, Jacob	255
Spies, Reuben J.	801
Staab, Carl	103
Staab, Ludwig	732
Stang, A. J.	252
Starzl, John	120
Stinton, Edward	609
Stinton, James	611
Stinton, Ralph	520
Stinton, Thomas	729
Stokes, Thomas	232
Stoll, William	395
Strobehn Brothers	697
Sullivan, John	154
Susemihl, Julius	683

T

Taylor, Elkanah	580
Taylor, Frank	727
Thiel, John	553
Thill, John N.	392
Thill, Nick	328
Thill, Peter	316
Thoma, Anthony	186

Thompson, Elmer R.	572
Toppings, George A.	220
Tracy, James	155
Tracy, Michael J.	606
Tracy, Philip F.	669
Traufler, John	72
Tronsrue, P. S.	361
Trow, William Z.	94
Turton, John W.	89

V

Van Buskirk, Frank	664
Vaske, John	500
Veidt, Frank	354
Vernon, F. G., M. D., C. M.	427
Vollmar, Rev. John	208
Vollmar, Rev. John J.	216
Vondrak, Michael	637

W

Wagner, Charles B.	478
Wakeman, Frank	452
Warner, D. E.	714
Warnock, Eugene	807
Watson, Archie	809
Weber, Frank H.	510
Weiler, Nic	303
Weiss, Joseph	670
Wengler, Frank	735
Wenner, Henry	195
Werley, Charles	555
Werley, Henry	713
Werley, Mathias	351
Wernli, Prof. J.	34
Wetrosky, Frank	548
Wetrorsky, John	367
Wies, John P.	304
Wilberding, Anton	656
Wilkinson, James	221
Willer, Charles J.	706
Williams, A. N.	725
Wilson, Frank S.	44
Wilson, Thomas	680
Wiltgen, Nic	239
Winslow, Wallace	113
Winter, Dietrich	404
Winter, Henry	338

BIOGRAPHICAL INDEX.

Winter, L. F. -----	770
Winterfeld, Albert F. -----	796
Winterfeld, Louis J. -----	603
Wintersteen, Benjamin F. -----	333
Wintz, Anton -----	498
Wittkop, John -----	176
Wolf, John B. -----	285
Woodall, Thomas -----	791
Woolley, Birney C. -----	704
Woolley, Mrs. M. Clarke -----	705
Woolworth, Robert H. -----	335

Wooton, George H., D. D. S. -----	457
Wormley, Hon. J. M. -----	336

Y

Yeaton, Ansel L. -----	330
------------------------	-----

Z

Zenk, Paul -----	613
Zimmerman, G. W. -----	536
Zweifel, Andrew -----	356



W. G. Baker.

BIOGRAPHICAL

WILLIS G. BOLSER.

Willis G. Bolser, president of the German-American Savings Bank of Le Mars and possessor of other extensive banking interests in Plymouth county, is a native of Wisconsin, born on a farm in Walworth county, that state, November 13, 1863, son of John and Ellen (Christopher) Bolser, the former a native of Kentucky and the latter of Norway. John Bolser and his wife were among the earliest settlers in Walworth county, where he spent his last days. His widow is now living at Palmyra, Wisconsin.

Reared on the home farm in Wisconsin, Willis G. Bolser received his schooling in the country schools of that neighborhood and when fifteen years of age, in 1878, came to Iowa and took employment with the Illinois Central Railroad Company, being engaged with that company until 1893, in which year, while acting as agent for the company at Le Mars he was elected president of the German-American Savings Bank at Le Mars and has ever since occupied that position, for years having been recognized as one of the leading bankers in northwestern Iowa. Mr. Bolser also has other extensive bank holdings, being interested in the Plymouth County Bank at Oyens, the Farmers' Savings Bank at Struble, the German Savings Bank at Craig and in the Bank of Brunsville, all in this county. In 1915 the German-American Savings Bank at Le Mars erected its present magnificent bank building, one of the finest structures of its kind in Iowa. This building is constructed of Bedford stone, along modern lines of architecture, and is a handsome addition to the business district of the county seat. In addition to his large holdings in a banking way, Mr. Bolser also has extensive land holdings and is regarded as one of the most substantial citizens in this part of the state.

In May, 1883, Willis G. Bolser was united in marriage to Carrie E. Mead, of Aplington, this state, and to this union four children have been born, namely: Miles O., who is an electrical engineer at Los Angeles, California; Ellen C., wife of Dr. W. W. Larsen, of Le Mars; Clark M. and Norman J.

PROF. J. WERNLI.

One of the best-loved men of a past generation in Plymouth county was the late Prof. J. Wernli, founder of the Western Union College at Le Mars. Of him it very properly has been said that he was a man who lived and worked for others, and in so doing found happiness for himself. The excellent educational institution he founded is a lasting monument to his memory and the influence he exerted upon the life of this community is an equally enduring memorial, all who were benefited by the gentle spell of his gracious personality during the days of his useful ministration here holding his memory as a precious possession.

Professor Wernli was a native of the republic of Switzerland, born on a farm in the Canton Aargau on July 13, 1828. His father was a well-to-do farmer, diligent in his business and prudent in the management of his affairs. His mother, a woman of rare natural talents and goodness of heart, assisted her husband in all those labors in which the wives of that fine little country generally take part. As a boy he learned to work and soon became a practical farmer. In the district school he developed such talents that the leading citizens and the minister of the village prevailed upon his parents to give him the necessary preparatory instruction for admission into the State Normal School. In 1847 he passed the examination for admission into the normal school and under the tutelage of an excellent corps of teachers received careful instruction and training for the life of a teacher. In the spring of 1850 he was graduated and was chosen as a teacher in his native county, shortly afterward being called to the position of principal of the schools of a neighboring manufacturing town. In 1853, while he was successfully conducting his school, Professor Wernli read the letters of Henry Bossard, a Swiss traveler, then traveling in the United States, and the glowing description of the farming lands of the West and of the success which was meeting the efforts of the Swiss settlers in the new country induced him to emigrate to this country and on May 1, 1855, he and his young wife arrived at Oshkosh, Wisconsin, where, united in spirit and purpose, they began a new life.

Upon arriving at the new scene of his labors, Professor Wernli found that the voyage had nearly exhausted his means, but ~~eighty-eight~~ gold dollars remaining of his little store, too limited a fund with which to begin farming; hence he and his wife began their life in this country undertaking any honest labor that offered. Professor Wernli did not disclose his profession. His former training as a farmer stood him in good stead and after

1134225

about eighteen months of labor along that line he had accumulated enough to buy a small home, which he presently sold at a profit and then moved to Waupaca county, Wisconsin, where, in the spring of 1857, he bought eighty acres of unimproved land. During all this time Professor Wernli had been making a diligent study of the English language, his thorough acquaintance with the French and with the German languages assisting him in such study, and in 1858 he was elected clerk of his local school district. In the spring of 1859 he began teaching, at a salary of twenty dollars a month, and in the fall of 1861 was elected superintendent of schools of Waupaca county. His work in that important capacity soon began to attract favorable notice on the part of the state school authorities and in 1863 he was re-elected. In 1864 he was called to the position of principal of the Second Ward school at Milwaukee; in 1866 was made assistant principal of the First State Normal School at Platteville and in 1868 was elected principal of the Northwestern German and English Normal School at Galena, Illinois.

Continued hard labor presently began to undermine Professor Wernli's health and after a period of five years of toil at Galena he was forced to resign. He then engaged in business in Chicago, as a partner in a book and stationery concern, but the turmoil of the city did not suit him and in 1875 he left the great city and came to Iowa, locating at Le Mars, where he accepted the position of principal of the public schools, at the same time starting a book store, which later he turned over to the management of his sons. Resigning his position as principal of schools in 1877, Professor Wernli for some time thereafter spent most of his time in conducting teachers' institutes and in the fall of 1881 was elected superintendent of schools of Plymouth county, an office he held for four years, declining a re-election in order to make a visit to his aged mother in Switzerland. Meanwhile, almost immediately after his arrival in Le Mars in 1875, Professor Wernli had established the Northwestern Normal School and Business College, now the Western Union College, at Le Mars and in that behalf he spent his remaining strength and a great part of his means purchasing and furnishing a beautiful building and maintaining a school in accordance with the dictates of his own high ideals. The institution grew and prospered, but after nearly four years of hard labor in teaching and managing the school Professor Wernli, tired and old, selected a successor and retired from the active labors of teaching, thereafter devoting his time to writing for educational journals and in planting and cultivating his orchards, garden and vineyard. During his long career as an educator, Professor Wernli gained a wide reputation in educational circles throughout Wisconsin and Iowa and

twice his name was offered at state conventions for nomination for state superintendent. His death occurred at his home in Le Mars on July 22, 1901, and his passing was widely mourned, for he had done a good work during his life and his friends were many.

The surviving children of Professor Wernli and wife are as follow: William J., the eldest, who is now living at Riverton, Wyoming; Gottlieb L., with the First National Bank of Le Mars; Mrs. C. E. Haas, of Le Mars; Charles A., general manager of the Plymouth Milling Company at Le Mars; George D., of Los Angeles, California; Mrs. E. C. Lucke, of Le Mars; Herman A., of Minneapolis, Minnesota; Frank P., of Hazen, North Dakota; Louis S., of Sioux City; Otto R., of Le Mars; Mrs. Charles Paul, of Minneapolis; Mrs. L. B. Schafer, of Paullina, Iowa, and Mrs. A. L. Livingston, also of Paullina, Iowa.

FRANK J. SMITH.

Frank J. Smith, mayor of the city of Le Mars and one of the best-known real-estate dealers in northwestern Iowa, is a native of the Dominion of Canada, but has been a resident of Iowa since he was fourteen years of age. He was born in Ontario on August 6, 1863, son of James and Sarah (McGilbery) Smith, the former a native of Canada and the latter of the Isle of Mull, Scotland, both of whom spent their last days in Iowa. It was about the year 1877 that the Smiths moved from Canada to this state, locating on a farm in Buena Vista county, where James Smith died a few months later. His widow survived him many years, her death occurring in 1913. They were the parents of eight children, of whom Mrs. Mary Keller is the only one besides the subject of this sketch residing in Plymouth county.

As noted above, Frank J. Smith was about fourteen years of age when his parents moved to this state from Canada with their children and he grew to manhood on the home farm in Buena Vista county, completing his schooling in the schools of that county. He remained in Buena Vista county for eight years, a part of the time farming and a part of the time engaged in the hardware business, and in 1893, about four years after his marriage, moved to Le Mars, where he ever since has made his home. For some little time after locating at Le Mars Mr. Smith followed various pursuits, working at the Plymouth mills for a time and for eight years served on the police force. He then took up the real estate business, in which he ever since has been engaged and in which he has been quite successful. In the spring of

1915 Mr. Smith was elected, as the nominee of the Democratic party, mayor of Le Mars and is now serving as the city's chief executive. In his fraternal relations he is a member of the Modern Woodmen.

It was on March 5, 1889, that Frank J. Smith was united in marriage to Lillian Lambert, of Le Mars, and to this union four children have been born, Vera, Maude, Florence and Ruth.

JESSE H. BEARDSLEY.

Jesse H. Beardsley, editor and proprietor of the *News-Times* at Kingsley, this county, is a native of the state of Ohio, but has been a resident of Iowa since he was three years of age. He was born on a farm in Hancock county, Ohio, November 16, 1872, son of Henry C. and Sarah Jane (Price) Beardsley, both natives of that same state, the latter of whom was a daughter of Elias Price, a farmer of Hancock county.

Henry C. Beardsley was reared on a farm in Hancock county, Ohio, and when the Civil War broke out enlisted for service in the Twenty-first Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, with which command he served for four years. During his military service Mr. Beardsley was captured by the enemy and was held a prisoner, in Andersonville and Libby prisons, for seventeen months and twelve days. Upon his return from the war he married and remained in Hancock county, Ohio, where he was engaged in farming, until 1875, in which year he came with his family to Iowa and settled on a farm in the vicinity of Adel, in Dallas county, and was engaged there in farming for a couple of years, at the end of which time he moved to the town of Adel and there remained until 1882, when he moved to Fonda and thence to various points, finally locating at Marcus, where he engaged in the restaurant business and where he remained until about fifteen years ago, when he returned to Fonda, where he resided until about ten years ago, when his wife died, after which he moved to Covert, Michigan, where he is now living retired.

To Henry C. and Sarah Jane (Price) Beardsley eight children were born, namely: Price Pearson, who died in infancy; Carrie C., who is living at Denver, Colorado; Luna U., who is living at Lebanon, Idaho; Jesse H., the subject of this biographical sketch; Mark H., who is living at Houston, Texas; Fay and Arthur, who died in infancy, and Anna I., who is living at Centralia, Washington. The mother of these children died in the year 1906 at Fonda, this state.

Jesse H. Beardsley was about three years of age when his parents moved from Ohio to Iowa and his schooling was received in the common schools of this state, where he attained the seventh grade at Atlas. In 1888 he began his career as a newspaper man, taking a position with the *Marcus News* and remaining connected with that paper for a year or more. His newspaper experience was then extended to other points and in 1892 he began working in the office of the *Kingsley Times*, seven weeks later going over to the office of the *Kingsley Democrat*, with which paper he was connected in the capacity of an employee until 1895, in which year he bought the paper. In 1901 Mr. Beardsley bought the *Kingsley Times* and merged the two papers, under the name of the *News-Times*, at the same time making some notable improvements in the general make-up of the paper. Mr. Beardsley moved his office to his present convenient location in 1900 and in 1908 erected a new office building, at the same time installing a practically new mechanical outfit, and now has one of the best-equipped and most up-to-date newspaper plants in this part of the state. Not only is Mr. Beardsley's paper a consistent and steadfast advocate of progress and enterprise in and about Kingsley, but he has given of his personal time and attention to local civic affairs and has served several terms as city clerk.

On June 15, 1907, Jesse H. Beardsley was united in marriage to Rose E. Stortz, who was born in Benton county, this state, and to this union three children have been born, Marvel I., Frances M. and Lois Maxine. Mr. and Mrs. Beardsley have a pleasant home in Kingsley and take a proper part in the general social activities of the town. Mr. Beardsley is a Royal Arch Mason and takes a warm interest in Masonic affairs.

FREDERICK W. HELD.

Frederick W. Held, a well-known and progressive farmer of Hungerford township, this county, proprietor of a fine farm of four hundred acres three-fourths of a mile east of the pleasant village of Hinton, is a native son of Plymouth county and has lived here all his life. He was born on the place where he still lives in Hungerford township, a son of Philip and Caroline (Koehler) Held, pioneers of this county, the latter of whom is still living at her fine home in Hungerford township on the celebrated "Mondamin Stock Farm" created by her late husband. In a memorial sketch relating to the late Philip Held, presented elsewhere in this volume, there is set out a comprehensive history of the well-known Held family in

this county, to which the attention of the reader is respectfully invited in this connection.

Frederick W. Held, who was the third in order of birth of the ten children born to his parents, was reared on the home farm in Hungerford township, receiving his elementary schooling in the schools of that district and supplementing the same by a course in the normal school at Le Mars, shortly after which he began farming on his own account and after his marriage in the fall of 1905 established his home on the farm on which he is now living and where he and his family are very pleasantly situated. He also retains his connection with the "Mondamin Stock Farm," the undivided estate of his late father, he and his brothers, who operate that farm, long having been among the best-known stockmen in this part of the state.

It was on October 6, 1909, that Frederick W. Held was united in marriage to Belle Yount, who was born in the neighboring county of Woodbury, daughter of Davis and Rachel M. (Blair) Yount, now and for years past residents of this county. Davis Yount was born in Miami county, Ohio, December 23, 1846, son of Jacob and Rebecca (Waymire) Yount, Quakers and substantial farming people of that county, the latter of whom died there in 1847, after which Jacob Yount married again and presently moved to Nebraska, settling on a homestead farm in Holt county, that state, years afterward selling that place and coming to Iowa and settling in Woodbury county, where he spent his last days, his death occurring there in 1895. As noted above, Jacob Yount was twice married. By his marriage to Rebecca Waymire he was the father of four children, Mary, Daniel, Frederick and Davis. Following the death of the mother of these children he married Elizabeth Kile and to that union seven children were born. Davis Yount was reared in Miami county, Ohio, and on February 1, 1865, enlisted for service during the Civil War and served in the Forty-eighth and in the Eighty-third Regiments, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, receiving his discharge a year later. On May 15, 1867, he married Rachel M. Blair and some time later became a resident of Woodbury county, this state, where he remained until 1894, in which year he moved with his family over to this county. In 1901 he bought the farm of one hundred and sixty-three acres in Hungerford township on which he is now living. He and his wife are the parents of seven children, of whom Mrs. Held is the youngest, the others being Elizabeth, Stella, Lewis, Rebecca, Gertrude and Daniel.

To Frederick W. and Belle (Yount) Held three children have been born, Blanche, Frederick and George W. Mr. and Mrs. Held are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and take a proper interest in the various

beneficences of the same, as well as in all local good works, helpful factors in the work of promoting all movements having to do with the advancement of the common welfare in the community in which they live.

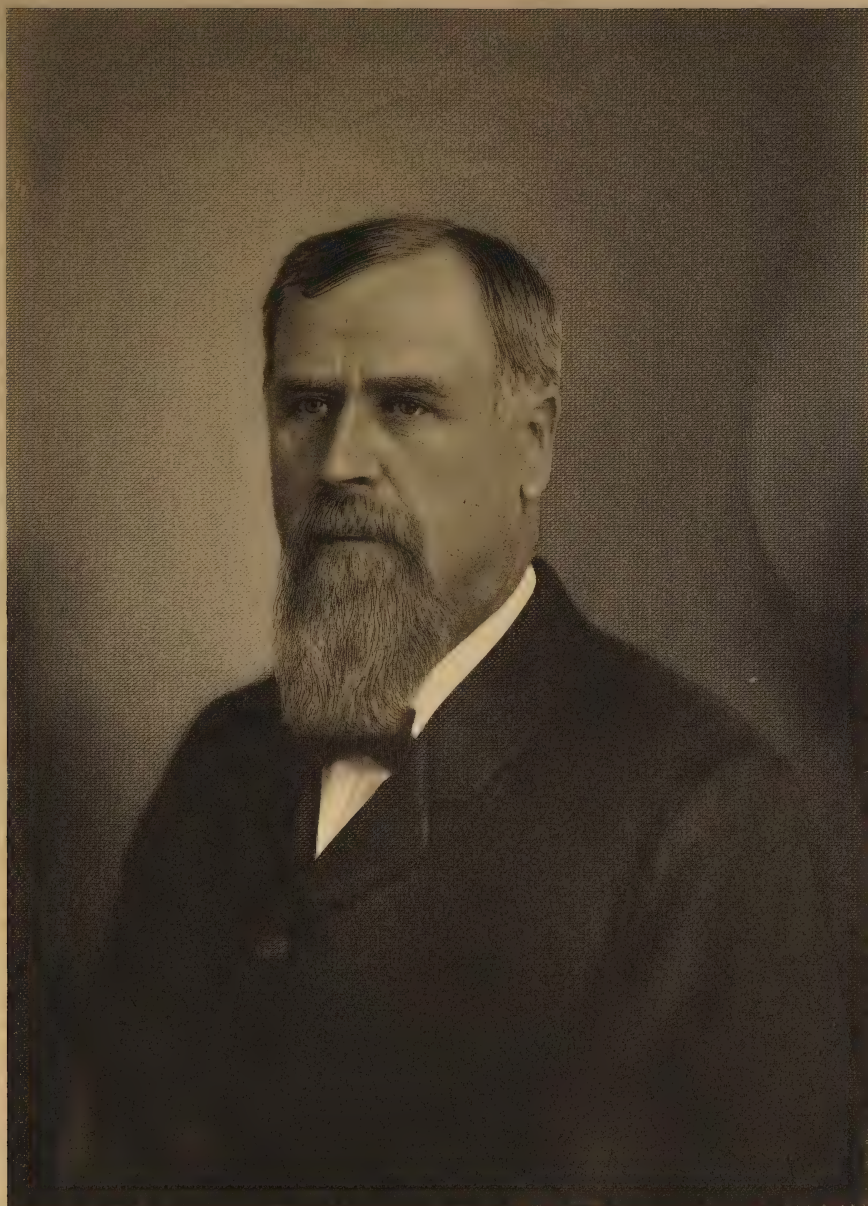
HENRY SEAL.

Death is always regarded by the masses as a visitor to our homes to be dreaded, but before whose merciless power we are helpless, and his crossing our threshold seems doubly deplorable when he summons the head of the family circle, as he did in the case of the late Henry Seal, for many years a well-known and highly respected citizen of Plymouth county.

Henry Seal was born in Soham, England, April 30, 1840, a son of James and Elizabeth (Banyard) Seal, both natives of Soham, England, also, where they grew up, attended school and were married and established the family home. The mother died there in 1849. Three members of the family came to America in 1861, locating at Rockford, Illinois, later coming to Plymouth county, Iowa, where the father and his eldest daughter made their home with his son, Henry, in Union township, until his death. His family consisted of five children, namely: Benjamin, who died in England; Christopher, who died in Rockford, Illinois; Mary, who died at the Seal home in Union township, this county; Henry, the subject of this memoir, and Lydia, who married Emerson Bixby, both now deceased. James Seal died at the home of his son in Union township.

Henry Seal spent his boyhood in England and was educated in the common schools there; then served an apprenticeship as a shoemaker. He worked at his trade in his native land until 1861, in which year he came to the United States with his father, locating at Rockford, Illinois, where he resided until 1875, continuing his trade there. He then came to Iowa and bought eighty acres in Union township, Plymouth county, which he improved and farmed until in February, 1906, when he retired from active life and moved to Le Mars, where he lived until his death on October 4, 1915.

Mr. Seal was married at Kingsley on October 10, 1888, to Matilda Rose, who was born in Adams county, Indiana, a daughter of Isaac and Catherine (Dondore) Rose, natives of Ohio and Pennsylvania, respectively. They made their home in Adams county, Indiana, until 1866, when they moved to Kendall county, Illinois, where the father's death occurred in 1896. The mother survived until 1912. They were the parents of eight children, namely: William,



Henry Seal.

who lives in Shaler, Iowa; John, who lives in Oklahoma; Amos, who lives in Yorkville, Illinois; Louis, deceased; Mrs. Mary Huntoon, who lives in Oswego, Illinois; Emma, who lives in Cordell, Oklahoma; Fred, deceased, and Matilda, widow of Mr. Seal, who was the second child in order of birth. To Mr. and Mrs. Seal a daughter was born, Rose E., who was educated in the Le Mars schools and is at home with her mother.

Mr. Seal owned one hundred acres of good land besides the eighty mentioned above, his two farms being about one mile apart. He was a successful general farmer and stock raiser. He always voted independently. He was reared in the Episcopal faith and bore an excellent reputation in all walks of life.

JACOB F. GAMERDINGER.

Jacob F. Gamerdinger, one of the well-known and successful business men of Remsen and the manager of the elevator at that place, was born in Wurtemberg, Germany, August 27, 1870, the son of George and Christiana Gamerdinger, also natives of Germany, who spent all their lives there. They were the parents of seven children, Jacob F. being the only one who came to America. Mr. and Mrs. Gamerdinger were prominent in the social and the religious life of their community and were held in the highest regard by all. Mr. Gamerdinger was a farmer and held the office of state road overseer. He was a man of much ability and was held as one of the prominent men of the district.

Jacob F. Gamerdinger received his education in the public schools of his native country and there grew to manhood. As a young man he learned the shoemaker's trade, which he followed for some years in the Fatherland. He remained a resident of the land of his birth, until 1889, when he decided to come to America. On his arrival in the United States he came direct to Iowa and located at Marcus, in the neighborhood of which place he worked as a farm hand until 1895, when he entered the United States regular army, in which he served for three years. After his discharge from the army he returned to Iowa and later went to Kansas, where he remained until 1900, when he returned to Iowa and located near Marcus, where he rented land and remained until 1903. He then came to Plymouth county and rented three hundred and thirty acres of land one mile north of Remsen, and there engaged in general farming and stock raising until 1914, in which year he moved to Remsen and on July 4, of that year became the manager of the farmers

elevator, which handles grain, flour and feed and also handles salt, fence posts, wire, gasoline, and oil and buys hogs. In that position Mr. Gamerdinger has given the most general satisfaction and has the confidence and the respect of the entire community.

On December 21, 1898, Jacob F. Gamerdinger was united in marriage to Anna Leithoff and to this union two children have been born, George and Jacob. The family are active members of the St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran church and take much interest in church work, Mr. Gamerdinger having served as secretary and president of the church organization. Mr. Gamerdinger is a Knight Templar Mason and is prominent in the work of the order.

At the time Jacob F. Gamerdinger came to this country he was compelled to borrow money with which to pay his way to the United States. Today he is recognized as one of the substantial men of the community and has the confidence and the respect of all.

JOHN N. PIKE.

John N. Pike, a well-known and substantial farmer of Hancock township, this county, owner of a fine farm of more than three hundred acres and for years actively identified with the work of developing that part of the county, is a native son of Iowa and has lived in this state all his life, a resident of Plymouth county since the days of his young manhood. He was born on a pioneer farm in Page county, this state, May 24, 1857, son of Joseph W. and Lacey (North) Pike, the former a native of the state of Ohio and the latter of Pennsylvania, who later became pioneers of this county, where the former is now living, retired, and where the latter spent her last days.

Joseph W. Pike was born on a farm in Columbia county, Ohio, in February, 1832, son of William and Beulah (Mercer) Pike, who, in 1846, moved to Indiana and settled on a farm in the neighborhood of Columbia City, in the northeastern part of that state, where they made their home until about 1857, when they came to Iowa and settled on a farm in Page county, where William Pike died at the age of sixty-seven. His widow later came to this county and spent her last days in the home of one of her daughters, being about eighty years of age at the time of her death. Joseph W. Pike was about thirteen years of age when his parents moved from Ohio to Indiana and on the home farm in the latter state he grew to manhood. There

he married Lacey North, who was born near Carlisle, Pennsylvania, on April 4, 1834, a daughter of John North and wife, who left that state about the same time the Pikes left Ohio and also settled in the neighborhood of Columbia City, Indiana. In 1855, shortly after their marriage, Joseph W. Pike and his wife came to Iowa, traveling through by "prairie schooner, and settled in Page county. There Mr. Pike pre-empted a quarter section of raw prairie land and established his home, remaining there until the breaking out of the Civil War, when he returned to Indiana to look after the farm of his father-in-law, the latter's sons having gone away to war. In 1864 he returned to his home in Page county, this state, and there remained until in the fall of 1876, when he came with his family up to this part of the state, which at that time was attracting the attention of settlers, and bought a quarter section in section 10 of Preston township, Plymouth county, about fifteen miles northwest of Le Mars, and there for a second time established a home on the virgin prairie. For about seven years Joseph W. Pike made his home in Preston township and then, in 1883, he sold out there and moved to Sloan, in the neighboring county of Woodbury, later moving to Valentine, Nebraska, whence, after a sometime residence, he returned to Plymouth county and is now living retired in Sioux township. His wife died on October 22, 1910. She was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, as is Joseph W. Pike, and their children were reared in the faith of that church. There are seven of these children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the second in order of birth, the others being William Marion, who lives in Sioux township, this county; Elizabeth, unmarried, who is living with her father and brother, William, in Sioux township; Charles C., also a Sioux township farmer; Edward, who is engaged in the real estate business at Valentine, Nebraska; Albert, a farmer, living near Crookston, Nebraska, and George W., a farmer, living at Flandreau, South Dakota.

Reared on the home farm in Page county, John N. Pike obtained his schooling in the schools of that neighborhood and was about nineteen years of age when he came with his parents to this county in 1876. Shortly after coming here he began working on his own account, taking over a farm which his father had bought in section 3 of Hancock township, assuming the deferred payments on the same, and after his marriage in 1881 established his home there, his place of residence ever since. Upon taking possession of the place Mr. Pike was confronted by the task of breaking the same, only ten or twelve acres of the tract having been broken, and he successfully overcame the difficulties which beset the pioneers, presently getting his farm under cultivation and improving the same in excellent shape. As he pros-

pered he bought other land adjoining and now has a fine farm of three hundred and five acres. In addition to his general farming Mr. Pike gives considerable attention to the raising of high-grade live stock and has done very well in his operations. In 1888 he erected his present comfortable residence and in 1900 the barn which is the center of his farm buildings. In his political views, Mr. Pike is "independent," reserving the privilege of voting for the men and not for the party. For some time, during the period when Hancock and Sioux township were one, he served as township assessor.

It was on December 25, 1881, that John N. Pike was united in marriage to Sylvia E. Keagle, who was born in the state of Pennsylvania, daughter of John D. and Melissa J. (Puterbaugh) Keagle, who came to Plymouth county in the early seventies, later moving to Missouri, where the father died; the mother now living with her daughter, Mrs. Pike. To Mr. and Mrs. Pike five children have been born, namely: Clara, who married George Rusk and is now living at Flandreau, South Dakota; Howard, a valued assistant to his father on the home farm; Floy, who married Albert Derochie and lives near Flandreau, and Glennie and Grace, at home. The Pikes have a very pleasant home and take a proper part in the general social activities of their home community, helpful in the promotion of all good movements thereabout. Mr. Pike is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America and takes a warm interest in the affairs of that organization.

FRANK S. WILSON.

Frank S. Wilson, for years a well-known citizen of Plymouth county and still the owner of a fine farm of three hundred and sixty acres in Lincoln township, but now a resident of Grayburg, Texas, in the vicinity of which place he is the owner of a rice plantation of nearly twelve hundred acres, is a native son of Iowa, born on a farm in Jones county on April 11, 1864, son of Robert and Catherine (Traynor) Wilson, who became pioneers of Plymouth county and whose last days were spent here.

Robert Wilson was born in the city of Philadelphia and there he grew to manhood, later engaging in the manufacture of woolen goods. In the latter fifties he disposed of his interests in Philadelphia and came to Iowa, settling in Jones county, over in the eastern part of the state, and there bought a farm, on which he made his home until 1884, when he came to Plymouth county and bought a tract of two thousand acres, part of which

lay over the line in Woodbury county, with the expectation of engaging extensively in cattle raising, but he died the year following the establishment of his home in Lincoln township. His widow survived him until 1891 and she and her sons continued the development of the state, bringing it up to a high state of cultivation. To Robert Wilson and wife were born eleven children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the third in order of birth, the others being Annabel, George (deceased), Thomas, Katherine, Jennie, Emma, Lincoln (deceased), Nellie, Helen and Gertrude.

Frank S. Wilson was twenty years of age when he accompanied his parents from Jones county to Plymouth county in 1884 and following the death of his father the year following much of the responsibility of developing the large tract which the father had bought out here fell upon his shoulders. In the ultimate division of the estate he came into possession of three hundred and sixty acres in section 34 of Lincoln township, which he still owns, though for years his chief interest has been in Texas, in which state he has developed a very productive rice plantation of nearly twelve hundred acres in the immediate vicinity of Grayburg, where he and his family are very pleasantly situated. It was in Texas, in 1896, that Mr. Wilson married Grace Carpenter and to that union four children have been born, Lincoln, Robert, Mabel and Frances.

SAM C. HARVEY.

The success which has come to Sam C. Harvey, a retired farmer of Le Mars, is directly traceable to the salient points in his character, for he started in life practically at the bottom of the ladder, which he has mounted with little aid from any source, although meeting with the usual obstacles that confront most men of ambition. With a mind capable of planning he combines a will strong enough to execute his well-formulated purposes, and his energy, sound judgment and perseverance have resulted in the accumulation of a good property.

Sam C. Harvey was born in Montreal, Canada, May 12, 1852, a son of David and Catherine (Clarke) Harvey, both natives of Ayreshire, Scotland. The father was seven years old when his parents brought him to Canada, and the mother was five years old when her parents emigrated to that country with her. They grew up in Canada, attended the common schools, he being educated at St. Regis, on the St. Lawrence river, at which place he resided for a period of about sixty years. He came to Le Mars,

tion required by the Iowa state board of pharmacy in 1912 and entered the drug business at Kingsley for himself. Although his father owns an interest in the store he leaves the management of the same to the son, the elder Payne giving his attention exclusively to his bank. The store is well-appointed, modern and up-to-date in its equipment, and a large and well-selected stock of drugs, druggist's sundries, jewelry and the like is carried, and an up-to-date soda fountain is maintained, Mr. Payne enjoying a large and growing trade.

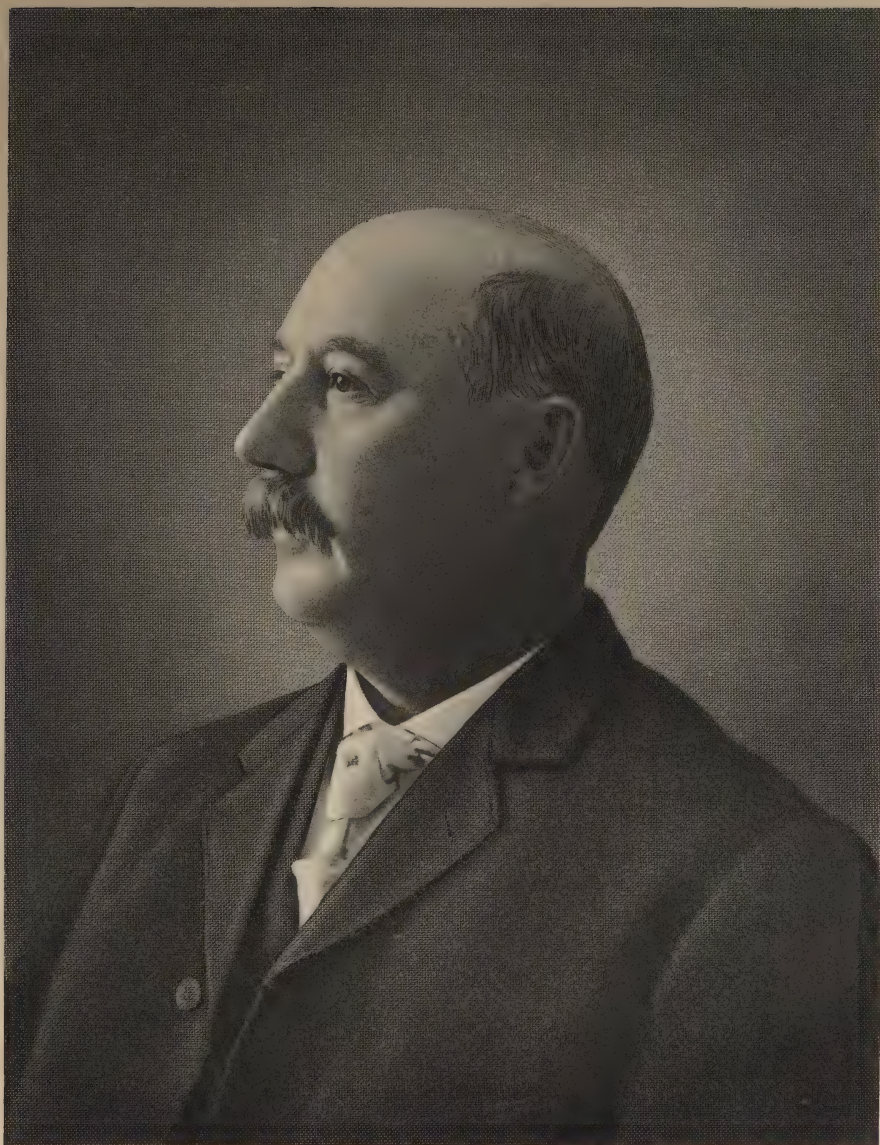
On September 1, 1910, W. R. Payne was married to Cora Featherston, who was born in Iowa, a daughter of J. R. & Lettie Featherston, and to this union one child has been born, a daughter, Irene, whose birth occurred on May 27, 1913. Politically, Mr. Payne is a Republican and fraternally, he is a Mason and has attained the eighteenth degree in that order. He belongs to the Congregational church.

D. A. OLTMANN.

The final causes which shape the fortunes of individual men and the destinies of states are often the same. They are usually obscure and their influence wholly unexpected until declared by results. When they inspire men to the exercise of courage, enterprise and industry, and call into play the higher moral elements—they lead men to risk all upon conviction. Such causes lead to the planting of prosperous communities. One of the leading men of affairs in Plymouth county is D. A. Oltmann, banker of Kingsley.

D. A. Oltmann was born in Hampton, Illinois, December 26, 1858, a son of Diedrich and Magdalena Oltmann. The father was a native of Oldenburg, Germany. He came to the United States in 1856, locating at Hampton, Illinois, on a farm where he spent the rest of his life, dying in 1903. He prospered through good management and became a large landowner. He was active in the affairs of his community and was a worker in the Lutheran church. His first wife died when their son, D. A., was a child and he later married Katherine Heeran.

D. A. Oltmann grew up on the home farm in Illinois and received a common-school education at Hampton, later taking a business course at Davenport, Iowa, after which, in the spring of 1881, he located in Ida county, Iowa, farming there until 1883, his half-sister, Sarah, keeping house for him. He then came to Plymouth county and in September, 1883, started



Eng. by J. G. Williams & Bro. N.Y.

D. A. Ottmann

a bank at Kingsley known as the Kingsley Bank, which was operated by the firm of John A. Heeran & Company, Mr. Oltmann acting as book-keeper for a short time, although he was a partner in the bank from the start. It was operated by the above-named firm until April 15, 1889, when George H. Phelps purchased the interest of John A. Heeran, and since then the firm has been Oltmann & Phelps. Mr. Oltmann is cashier of the bank, which has enjoyed a steady and satisfactory growth from the beginning and is one of the popular and sound institutions of its kind in Plymouth county. A general banking business is carried on.

On October 12, 1886, Mr. Oltmann was married to Flora McClow, who was a native of Ida county, Iowa. She died in 1901, leaving one child, Anna Fern, who married Leo Larkins, of Rock Island, Illinois. Mr. Oltmann later married Emma Wilson, which second union has been without issue.

Politically, Mr. Oltmann is a Democrat. Fraternally, he is a thirty-second degree Mason, to which degree he attained in 1913. He has been a member of the village council for about ten years. He attends the Congregational church, of which he is treasurer and a trustee. Although Mr. Oltmann gives all his time to his banking interests, he is owner of four hundred acres of valuable farming land in Elkhorn and Lincoln township, this county. He has the interests of his locality at heart and is always ready to support any worthy movement.

PATRICK F. DALTON.

Few persons have played a more important part in the development of the material affairs of Plymouth county than has Patrick F. Dalton, president of the First National Bank of Le Mars and holder of other extensive and important interests in this part of the state. Mr. Dalton is a native of Ireland, born in County Longford in 1838, son of Matthew and Catherine (Kinney) Dalton, and was twelve years of age when his parents came to this country, the family locating in Livingston county, New York, whence, in 1855, they moved to Sandusky county, Ohio, where, as a young man, Patrick F. Dalton enlisted for service as a private in Company G, One Hundred and Eleventh Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and served with that command until the close of the Civil War, being mustered out with

his regiment in July, 1865. Mr. Dalton participated in all the battles in which his regiment was engaged during that struggle and in 1864 was promoted to a lieutenancy.

In 1873 the Dalton family came to Iowa, Patrick F. Dalton locating at Le Mars, where he became interested in the coal and grain business. In 1875 he became identified with the Plymouth County Bank of Le Mars, now the First National Bank of that city, the old financial institution having been recognized as such in 1882, and for many years has been president of the same. In addition to his banking interests; Mr. Dalton has other large and important interests and has for many years been recognized as one of the leading factors in financial and business circles hereabout, one of his chief interests being his connection of many years standing with the Plymouth Milling Company of Le Mars. He also has ever taken an active interest in the general civic affairs of the community, was a member of the first city council at Le Mars and ever since taking up his residence there has been identified with all movements having for their object the advancement of the city's material interests and the moral well-being of the community at large. Mr. Dalton's service to the community in the early days of pioneer struggle hereabout were of incalculable benefit to many of the settlers, who were able to secure through him banking accommodations to tide them over periods of stress that would have left them hopelessly stranded but for his generous assistance in their time of need; and it is therefore not a cause for wonder that there is no more popular or highly esteemed citizen in this part of the state than this kindly old banker, who has never neglected an opportunity intelligently and vigorously to "boost" his home city and the county at large. Mr. Dalton is a Royal Arch Mason, a Knight Templar and a noble of the Ancient Arabic Order of Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, and for many years has taken a warm interest in the affairs of the local Masonic lodge. He is the owner of a valuable and well-improved farm of five hundred acres adjoining the corporation line of the city of Le Mars and makes his home on the same, his residence being but six blocks distant from his bank. His two sons, Edwin and Ralph Dalton, who are associated with their father in the bank, also have handsome homes on that same tract. They, like their father, are among the city's most influential "boosters" and never miss an opportunity to advance the interests of their home town.

It was before coming to this state that Patrick F. Dalton was united in marriage to Mary Tew, a daughter of Paul Tew and wife, of Sandusky, Ohio, and to this union two sons have been born, Edwin T. Dalton, cashier

of the First National Bank of Le Mars, and Ralph Dalton, assistant cashier of the same. A son of Edwin A. Dalton is a graduate of the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis and is now an officer on the battleship "New Hampshire." The Daltons are members of the Country Club and take an earnest interest in the general social activities of the community.

ADAM HENRICH.

Adam Henrich, deceased, was born in Nassau, Germany, and died on December 17, 1889, at the age of fifty years. He was the son of George Henrich and wife, both of whom were natives of Germany and there lived their lives. Adam Henrich received his education in the public schools of his native country and there grew to manhood. He continued to live in the land of his birth, until he was twenty-one years of age, when he decided to come to America. On his arrival in the United States, he came direct to Iowa and located in Plymouth county, where he homesteaded eighty acres of land, which he developed and improved, and there engaged in general farming and stock raising.

In 1873 Adam Henrich was united in marriage to Minnie Wand, who was born in Berlin, Germany, and there received her education. In 1864 she came to Iowa with a sister and other relatives, and located in Plymouth county. Her father was William Wand, who lived and died in Germany. During the greater part of his life he was a soldier of the empire. Mrs. Henrich's sister, Fredericka, who came to America, died in Iowa, some years ago.

To Adam and Minnie Henrich were born the following children: Tillie, who is a resident of Le Mars; Mary, who is at home with her mother; George, who lives at Nilesville, Wisconsin; Mrs. Clara Van Dusen, who lives at Lake Benton, Minnesota; Emma, who is the wife of Warren Stilwell and resides near Lawton, Iowa; Ann, who married Thomas J. Sullivan and lives at Sioux Falls, and Minnie and Henry, also residents of Sioux Falls.

Adam Henrich resided on his farm until the time of his death, and there his widow lived until 1906, when she moved to Merrill, where she and her daughter Mary now reside. Mr. Henrich was a hardworking man, and most devoted to his family. He was kind and affectionate and devoted his life to the interests of his wife and children. He made many friends and his

death was mourned by the entire community. He was recognized as a careful and prudent farmer and one who would have met with greater successes had his life been spared. He took much interest in the development and the improvement of the township and the county and was a strong advocate of substantial and permanent public improvements. He took much interest in the growth of the schools of his home community and educational institutions had no stronger friend than Mr. Henrich.

Politically, Adam Henrich was identified with the Republican party and he was a patriotic citizen, taking much interest in the civic life of the township; yet he never aspired to office, but was willing to work in the ranks and do what he could for the betterment of the district. He was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, while the family were members of the Catholic church.

REV. HENRY ROLFES.

The Rev. Henry Rolfes, pastor of St. Catharine's Catholic church at Oyens, is a native of Germany, but has been a resident of Iowa since he was three years old. He was born in Oldenburg on November 30, 1870, son of Frank and Mary Ann Rolfes, both natives of that same grand duchy, the former a carpenter by trade, who came to the United States in 1873 and proceeding to Petersburg, this state, settled on a farm in that vicinity and there established their home and spent the rest of their lives. There Frank Rolfes died on April 2, 1916. His widow survived him but a little more than six months. She died on October 21, 1916, and is buried at Petersburg. They were the parents of eight children, of whom the subject of this sketch is the only one a resident of this county.

Henry Rolfes grew to manhood on the home farm in the vicinity of Petersburg, this state, receiving his elementary schooling in the public and parochial schools of that village. Early evincing a strong taste for the church his schooling was directed with a view to his ultimate entrance into Holy Orders and in due time he was sent to St. Francis Seminary, near Milwaukee, and after a course of eight years of instruction, including philosophy and theology, there was ordained to the holy priesthood on November 23, 1893, at Dubuque, Iowa, his first mass being read in his old home church, the church of Sts. Peter and Paul at Petersburg. Shortly after his ordination Father Rolfes was made assistant priest of the Sacred Heart church at Dubuque and after six years of service there was sent to take charge of St.

Catharine's parish at Oyens, this county, where he ever since has been stationed and where he has performed effective service. Upon taking charge of the parish of St. Catharine's, Father Rolfes found a membership of about forty-five families. He at once began to build up an effective parish school. The parish now numbers about four hundred and eighty souls, with progress reported in all departments of its numerous activities. In the spring of 1900 Father Rolfes completed the erection of the new church at Oyens and in that same year secured the erection of a parochial school ample to accommodate the needs of all the pupils at that time. The growth of the parish school, however, necessitated the erection of another building in 1910 and now St. Catharine's parish has an excellent school plant, presided over by the Sisters of St. Francis, with an enrollment of one hundred and five. Father Rolfes also has established various helpful societies working within the congregation, the various activities of the parish now being effectively directed by a number of earnest organizations, including a branch of the Roman Catholic Mutual Protective Society, the St. Aloysius Society, the Christian Mothers' Society, the Sodality of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Holy Infant's Society, for children, all of which receive the earnest encouragement of the pastor. During his residence at Oyens, Father Rolfes has given his earnest attention to all movements having to do with the advancement of the general welfare of the community and has made many friends throughout the county.

HERMAN HENRY MOHNING.

Herman Henry Mohning, one of the pioneer citizens of Plymouth county and a well-known and substantial farmer of Marion township, is a native son of Iowa and has lived in this state all his life. He was born on a pioneer farm in Clayton county on March 24, 1854, son of Herman Henry and Mary (Pepmeyer) Mohning, natives of Prussia, who came to the United States following their marriage in the early fifties and proceeding on out to Iowa settled in Clayton county, thus becoming among the earliest settlers of that county. Upon arriving there Mr. Mohning had remaining but five dollars in cash with which to establish himself in the new country, but both he and his wife possessed stout hearts and willing hands and it was not long until they began to see their way clear. He homesteaded a small farm and continued farming there until the encroachments of age compelled his retire-

ment from the active labors of the farm and he and his wife then came to this county and their last days were spent in the home of their eldest son, H. H. Mohning, the mother dying there in 1900, at the age of seventy-nine years, and the father, in 1906, at the age of eighty-four. They were members of the German Evangelical Lutheran church and their children were reared in that faith. There were seven of these children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the first-born, the others being as follow: John, who lives at Le Mars; Anna, who married Louis Harnack and lives at Remsen, this county; Lena, who married Henry Fromme, of Henry township, this county; Sophia, who married L. H. Schultes, of Le Mars, now treasurer of Plymouth county; Frederick, who owns the old homestead place in Clayton county, and Margaret, who married Charles Hedeman and continues to live in Clayton county.

Reared on a pioneer farm, the eldest son of the family, H. H. Mohning had little opportunity for schooling in the days of his boyhood, being compelled early in his youth to take a man's part in the labors of developing and improving the home place, and was a valuable assistant to his father in that connection. He remained on the home farm until his marriage at the age of twenty-one, in 1875, when he and his bride came to Plymouth county and settled on a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in section 15 of Marion township, among the early settlers of that part of the county. Upon taking possession of his farm the place was an unbroken tract of virgin prairie and he courageously faced the task of breaking and developing the same. He built a small house, fourteen by twenty-two feet and one and one-half stories high, and there established his home. As the years passed and his place came under cultivation, he was able to add to his land holdings until he became the owner of two hundred and forty acres and erected a better house and more substantial farm building, and was long recognized as one of the leading farmers of that part of the county. Later Mr. Mohning divided his land among his children, retaining but eighty acres for himself surrounding the old home place, and there he still lives, very comfortably situated. Mr. Mohning is "independent" in his political views and takes an earnest interest in local civic affairs. For several years he was president of the local board and has otherwise given of his time and attention to the public affairs of the community in which he lives, for several years having been trustee of the township and director of school district No. 5, from the time of its organization in 1896 to the year 1915. Mr. Mohning is a member of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran church at Remsen and has been an office bearer in that church.

It was on January 28, 1875, in Clayton county, this state, that H. H. Mohning was united in marriage to Anna Schulte, who was born in that county, a daughter of Garrett and Minnie (Myer) Schulte, natives of Germany and early settlers in this state, the former of whom died in Clayton county and the latter in Allamakee county, and to that union six children were born, namely: Minnie, who married Charles Meyer, of Clayton county, to which union were born two sons, Irving and Albert, and who died in February, 1910; Herman Henry, Jr., a farmer of Pipestone county, Minnesota, who married Katherine Holck and has four children, Mildred, Irene, Sylvia and Lois; William John, now the owner of eighty acres of the old Mohning home place in Marion township, who married Rosina Bruns and has two children, Nora and Donald; Louis Henry, who is at home with his father, and Anna Marie and Anna Sophia, also at home. The mother of these children died on January 13, 1915, at the age of sixty-two years.

JAMES E. KELLEY.

James E. Kelley, postmaster at Le Mars, is a native of Michigan, born at Negaunee, that state, July 16, 1871, son of James C. and Ann (Mee) Kelley, natives of Ireland, who became early settlers of Plymouth county and the latter of whom is still living here. Both James C. Kelley and his wife came to the United States in the days of their youth. They were married in Massachusetts and later moved to Michigan, where they remained until in September, 1871, when they came to Iowa and settled in Plymouth county. Here James C. Kelley homesteaded a tract of land in Grant township, established his home there and there spent the rest of his life, one of the substantial pioneer farmers of that part of the county, his death occurring in 1901. His widow is still living. They were the parents of five children, four of whom are still living, those besides the subject of this sketch being Francis P., who is sales manager for the Savage Arms Company, of Utica, New York; Mrs. M. F. Keough, of Little Falls, Minnesota, and Mrs. W. L. McAuliff, of Portersville, California.

James E. Kelley was but two months old when his parents moved from Michigan to Plymouth county and he grew to manhood on the homestead farm in Grant township, receiving his schooling in the public schools and at the Le Mars Normal School, graduating in 1894; later graduating from the Northern Illinois Normal School and Business College. Thus equipped for

teaching Mr. Kelley entered the ranks of Plymouth county's excellent teaching corps and for two or three years thereafter was engaged in teaching school. He then spent one year at Sioux City keeping books for a wholesale grocery house, presently returning to Le Mars, where he was engaged in the insurance business for four years, or until his appointment to the position of deputy county treasurer, a position he held for ten years. On May 1, 1915, Mr. Kelley received his commission as postmaster at Le Mars, under appointment of President Wilson, and at once entered upon the duties of that important office, thus being the first postmaster to occupy the fine new federal building at the county seat. Postmaster Kelley is a Democrat and for years has taken an earnest and active part in the political affairs of this part of the state.

In July, 1909, James E. Kelley was united in marriage to Charlotte Esther Pearce, daughter of Fred Pearce and wife, of Le Mars, and to this union two children have been born, James Pearce and Kathleen. Mr. and Mrs. Kelley are members of the Catholic church and Mr. Kelley is a member of the Knights of Columbus, in the affairs of which organization he takes a warm interest.

MILO S. MILLS.

Milo S. Mills, one of the best-known and most substantial farmers of Sioux township, this county, is a native son of Iowa and has lived in this state the greater part of his life. He was born at Sioux City on March 9, 1859, son of David M. and Sarah (Robertson) Mills, pioneers of this region and among the most prominent and influential of the early settlers of this part of the county, both of whom spent their last days in Sioux township, this county.

David M. Mills, who for many years played a prominent part in the development of this part of the state and of the neighboring state of South Dakota, was a native of New Hampshire, but when a youth moved with his parents to Michigan, the family settling on a farm in the Gull Prairie neighborhood, where his parents both spent the remainder of their lives. When about sixteen years of age David M. Mills joined a party en route to the gold fields of California and with that party drove across the mountains and the plains to the new El Dorado. After mining there for some time he bought a threshing-machine outfit, the first of its kind ever seen in California, and for some time operated the same on the Santa Rosa ranch,

an immense ranch in south central California, people traveling for hundreds of miles throughout that section to witness the operations of the machine. David M. Mills "made good" financially, in California and remained there for five or six years, at the end of which time he took a sight-seeing trip through South America, the same consuming a year or more. Returning thence to California, he presently came back East, going to Champaign, Illinois, on a visit to a brother, and about the year 1856 came to Iowa, stopping at Sioux City, whence he shortly afterward went to Sioux Falls, South Dakota, in the employ of the Great Western Land Company, and while thus employed "held down" a pre-emption claim to a quarter of a section of land for the company on the site of the present city of Sioux Falls. After a sometime residence there he came over into this part of Iowa and pre-empted a quarter section of land in Sioux township, this county, paying one dollar and twenty-five cents an acre for the same. He put up a small two-room house on the tract, broke twenty-five or thirty acres of the land and was living there when the Indian scare in 1862 drove the few settlers away from this region. Mr. Mills took his family to Sioux City during the time of the Indian trouble and the family remained there until the spring of 1865, he meanwhile making trips back and forth to his farm and cultivating the same, and at the time just mentioned he moved with his family over to Elk Point, where he established his home and where he remained until the fall of 1872, meanwhile retaining and cultivating his land in this county. During his residence at Elk Point, Mr. Mills served for two years as United States revenue assessor for the territories of the Dakotas, Wyoming and Montana and also served for two terms as a member of the Dakota territorial Legislature. In the fall of 1872 he moved his family back to this county and again settled on his farm in Sioux township, which he proceeded to improve in excellent shape, erecting fine new buildings on the same, planting a splendid grove and otherwise bringing the place up to a high standard of cultivation. As his affairs prospered Mr. Mills bought further land and became largely interested in the raising of cattle and other live stock and soon became recognized as one of the most substantial farmers and stockmen in this part of the state, at the time of his death, being the owner of seventeen hundred and fifty acres, four hundred acres of which lay across the river in the neighboring state of South Dakota. Mr. Mills also took an active part in public affairs, served a term as sheriff of Plymouth county in an early day and helped to lay out the present road between Sioux Falls and Sioux City. He died at

his home in Sioux township on April 26, 1893, being then in the sixty-ninth year of his age.

David M. Mills was twice married. It was after his return from California that he was united in marriage to Sarah A. Robertson, who was born on a farm in Elkhart county, Indiana, daughter of Jerome Robertson and wife, who later came to Iowa and made their home for awhile on a farm near Des Moines, whence they returned to Indiana, where Jerome Robertson spent the rest of his life. His widow died at the home of a son in Missouri. Jerome Robertson and wife were the parents of five children, of whom Mrs. Mills was the third in order of birth, the others being Jacob, Jane, Jerome and Henry. Jacob and Jerome Robertson served as Union soldiers during the Civil War and the former was so severely wounded during that service that he never afterward regained his normal physical condition. To David M. and Sarah A. (Robertson) Mills seven children were born, namely: Milo S., the immediate subject of this biographical sketch; Nellie, who died in her girlhood; Lottie, who also died in youth; Agnes, who died on September 1, 1885, at the age of sixteen years; David, who was suffocated while engaged in digging a well on September 16, 1891, he then being twenty years of age; Frank P., a banker at Westfield, this county, a biographical sketch of whom is presented elsewhere in this volume, and George, who was drowned in the Big Sioux river on March 16, 1890, he then being thirteen years of age. The mother of these children died in March, 1881, at the age of forty-five years, and in 1883 Mr. Mills married Jennie T. Gage, who survived him seventeen years, her death occurring on July 10, 1910.

Milo S. Mills received his schooling in the schools of Sioux City, of Elk Point and of Sioux township and remained on the home farm, a valuable assistant to his father in the work of improving and developing the same, until his marriage in 1888, after which he began farming on his own account, taking the management of a place of two hundred and forty acres in Sioux township, where he remained until 1909, in which year he moved to Lewiston, Idaho, in the vicinity of which place he bought a fruit ranch and there remained a year, at the end of which time he returned to Plymouth county and bought a tract of four hundred and eighty acres of the old home place and has there made his home ever since. Upon taking possession of that place Mr. Mills erected his present handsome residence and there he and his family are very pleasantly and very comfortably situated. In that same year he built the fine, modern barn, which serves

as the center of his excellent group of farm buildings, and the other improvements on the place are in keeping with the same. Some time after settling down there Mr. Mills bought an adjoining tract of one hundred and twenty acres and is now farming six hundred acres of fine land and has been very successful. He has adopted up-to-date methods of farming and uses a tractor for plowing. Mr. Mills is a Republican and has held numerous township offices, ever an active promoter of the best interests of his home community.

It was on March 6, 1888, that Milo S. Mills was united in marriage to Laura E. Vradenberg, who was born in South Dakota, daughter of Cassius and Caroline (Kiltz) Vradenberg, who later became residents of this county, still later moving to Nebraska, where they are now living. Cassius Vradenberg was born at Kalamazoo, Michigan, son of Philo and Alice (Owen) Vradenberg, who spent their last days there and who were the parents of four children, George Cassius, Emily and Laura. In 1869 Cassius Vradenberg came to this part of the country and entered a claim to a homestead in Union county, South Dakota, and after living there for some time, meanwhile having married in 1870, sold his homestead tract and bought a large farm lying between McCook and Jefferson, in South Dakota, where he remained until 1883, when he came over into Iowa and settled on what is now the Pat Gant farm in Sioux township, this county, where he remained for some years, at the end of which time he moved to Mapleton, moving thence, after a year, to Sioux City, where he remained until about twenty years ago, when he moved to Papillion, Nebraska, where he and his wife are still living and where he is engaged as a rural mail carrier. It was in 1870 that Cassius Vrandenberg was united in marriage to Caroline Kiltz, who was born at Erie, Pennsylvania, daughter of Jacob and Elizabeth Kiltz, and to this union six children were born, of whom Mrs. Mills was the first-born, the others being Herbert, who died in youth; Lawrence, who also died in youth; Wilbur; Mary, who died in girlhood, and George.

To Milo S. and Laura E. (Vrandenberg) Mills seven children have been born, namely: Belle, who was born on January 9, 1889, and on December 23, 1914, married James Robertson, a farmer, living in the vicinity of Gilbert, this state; Ulu, June 24, 1891, who married Harley Small, a farmer, living near Adaville, this county, and has two children, Donald Edward and Helen Bernice; Chester Owen, April 9, 1894, who is a valued assistant to his father on the home farm; George, June 3, 1895, who mar-

ried Evelyn Hughes and is now the proprietor of a garage at Westfield; Fred, July 11, 1898, at home; Frances, December 16, 1900, and Nina, February 4, 1906. The Millses are members of the Congregational church at Westfield and take a proper part in the affairs of the same, as well as in the general social activities of their home neighborhood. Mr. Mills is a Royal Arch Mason and his son, Chester O. Mills, also is a Mason, while Mrs. Mills and two of her daughters are members of the local chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star, in the affairs of which organization they take a warm interest.

JOHN BEELY.

John Beely, former mayor of Le Mars, former member of the city council, former coroner of Plymouth county, one of the real pioneers of this county and for many years one of the most active and influential merchants of Le Mars, proprietor of a furniture store and undertaking establishment, is a native of the republic of Switzerland, but has been a resident of this county since he was seventeen years of age, a period of an even half century. He was born at Mathon-Schams, in the Canton Graubunden, December 19, 1850, son of Jacob and Ursula (Janet) Beely, both natives of Switzerland, the former of whom died in his native land in 1884; his widow later, in 1886, coming to this country, her last days being spent in the home of her son, John, at Le Mars, where her death occurred in 1902.

John Beely is the first-born and the only surviving of the three children born to his parents. When a boy of seventeen years, in 1867, he came to the United States and proceeded directly to Iowa, locating in Plymouth county, where he ever since has made his home and during which time he has been out of the county over night but three times. He was twenty-three days on the water coming over from Switzerland; eight days from New York to Chicago and four days from St. Louis to Sioux City, there being no railroads across the state to Sioux City at that time. Upon arriving in Plymouth county young Beely found employment at farm labor among the pioneers of the neighborhood in which he settled and on June 22, 1871, homesteaded the north half of the northeast quarter of section 14 in Johnson township, which he at once proceeded to develop and after his marriage in the fall of the next year established his home there, continuing to reside on the homestead farm until November 30, 1880, when he retired from the farm and moved to Le Mars, where he ever since has

made his home. In the meantime Mr. Beely had added to his land holdings, which he still retains and on which he has made extensive improvements, only recently erecting one of the finest barns in the county on his farm.

Upon taking up his residence at Le Mars, Mr. Beely was employed at the Plymouth roller mills until his appointment to the position of deputy sheriff in 1884, serving in that position for two years thereafter, under the incumbency of Sheriff F. D. Fuller. On February 7, 1886, Mr. Beely bought the furniture and undertaking establishment of Louis Patcig at Le Mars and has ever since continued to conduct the same, for many years having been recognized as one of the city's leading business men. Soon after acquiring possession of the business he bought the building in which his establishment was located, together with the building adjoining and remodeled the two into one large, modern store room. He also bought another building across the street from his store for storage purposes, carrying there his extra stock. Mr. Beely has been quite successful in his business and carries a full line of up-to-date furniture. In addition to giving close attention to his own business affairs and the general business interests of his home town, Mr. Beely for years has given his intelligent attention to the civic affairs of the community and has served in several important public capacities. He served for some time as coroner of Plymouth county, served for three terms as a member of the city council from the third ward and in 1912 was elected mayor of Le Mars, as the nominee of the Democratic party, and served for two years as the city's chief executive, during that time giving the city a fine administration, accepting favors from no quarter and granting no special privileges. As mayor he made a point of administering the affairs of the city on a sound business basis and not only succeeded in lowering the tax rate, but in paying off a large municipal indebtedness. Mr. Beely comes of fine old democratic stock, members of both sides of his family having been in the front fighting for the liberties of the people in Switzerland back in the seventeenth century. He is a fine specimen of hale manhood, virile and vigorous, and but recently, despite the fact that he is nearing the three-score-and-ten period of his life, easily defeated his sixteen-year-old grandson in a running broad jump. Both Mr. and Mrs. Beely are members of the Methodist Episcopal church at LeMars and he has been a member of the official board of the same since its organization.

It was on November 13, 1872, that John Beely was united in marriage

to Ursula Kasper, who also was born in Switzerland and who came to America in the same year as that of her husband's migration, but the two had never known each other until they met here after taking up their residence in Plymouth county. Mrs. Beely has been an able and competent helpmeet to her husband in the latter's successful business career and he freely accords to her just praise for her part in the general management of their affairs. Three children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Beely and another, adopted when only two days old, they claim as their own. The first-born of these children died in infancy. The second, Ursula, married George Rees and died in 1902, leaving three children, whom Mr. and Mrs. Beely have since cared for. The third child, a daughter, married Caleb Garton, who is with Mr. Beely in the store, and the adopted daughter married Lloyd Mauer, who also is in the store with Mr. Beely.

HENRY DETLOFF.

The late Henry Detloff, for years one of the best-known pioneer farmers and stockmen of Plymouth county and one of the most extensive land-owners in Elgin township, was a native of Germany, but had been a resident of this country since 1869 and of Plymouth county since 1876. He came to this country, a poor German boy, practically empty-handed, but by careful management succeeded far beyond the measure of most men and at the time of his death in the fall of 1915 was the owner of eleven hundred acres of excellent land and had long been regarded as one of Plymouth county's most substantial citizens. His widow, who still survives him, is now living at Le Mars, where she is very comfortably situated at her pleasant home at 1401 Eagle street.

Henry Detloff was a Pomeranian, born in the province of Pommern, Prussia, May 12, 1846, son of John and Ricka Detloff, the latter of whom died when he was a small boy. John Detloff was a shepherd in his native Pommern and followed that gentle calling until some time after the death of his wife, when he came to America and settled near Bloomington, Illinois, where he spent the rest of his life farming. To him and his wife five children had been born, of whom but two are now living, Mrs. Ricka Bealah and Mrs. Minnie Ward. Henry Detloff received his schooling in his native land and there early learned the wagon-making trade, which he followed until he entered the army at the age of nineteen. At the end of six

months of service he was promoted to the rank of lieutenant and served in that capacity until the completion of the required three years of service. In 1869, shortly after the completion of his military service, Henry Detloff came to the United States and joined his father at Bloomington, Illinois, in the neighborhood of which city he worked as a farm hand until the next spring, when he rented a farm in that vicinity and there remained until 1876, in which year he came to Iowa and settled in Plymouth county, where he spent the remainder of his life. In the meantime, in the summer of 1872, Mr. Detloff had married and upon coming to this county established his home on the quarter section of land he had bought in Elgin township, four and one-half miles north of Le Mars. For that quarter section he paid eight dollars an acre, the same being raw prairie, and he lost little time in breaking the sod and bringing the land under cultivation. Upon taking possession of his new place he built a small two-room house and during his second year there planted a grove. During the dread visitations of the grasshoppers throughout this section he suffered almost total losses, in common with all the other early settlers hereabout, but he had courage and pluck and "stuck to the job", presently beginning to see his way clear, and from that time on prospered in his undertakings. As he prospered he built a new house and substantial farm buildings, brought his farm up to a high standard of cultivation and gradually enlarged his land holdings until he became the owner of eleven hundred acres of excellent land, of which he farmed five hundred and twenty acres, leaving the remainder for a range for his cattle, in which latter line he also became quite successful, long having been regarded as one of the most thrifty stockmen in that part of the county. Mr. Detloff was a Republican and from the time of taking up his residence in this county ever gave his thoughtful attention to local civic affairs, serving for some time as township trustee and for years as director of his local school district. He was one of the active supporters of the German Methodist Episcopal church and for years was a member of the board of trustees of that body. Mr. Detloff died on October 31, 1915, and his passing was widely mourned among his large circle of friends and acquaintances, for he was a good citizen and one of the county's most influential pioneers.

It was on August 24, 1872, at Bloomington, Illinois, that Henry Detloff was united in marriage to Pauline Pech, who was born in Germany, a daughter of Ferdinand and Dora Pech, also natives of that country, who were the parents of five children, Robert, Gus, Ferdinand, Pauline and

Augusta: The elder Ferdinand Pech was a millwright in his native land and died there when his daughter, Pauline, was two years of age. In 1871 his widow and the other members of the family came to the United States to join the son, Gus, who had come here some little time before and had settled at Bloomington, Illinois, and it was there that Pauline Pech met and married Henry Detloff. To that union ten children were born, namely: Martha, who married Henry Reints, of Elgin township, this county, and has five children, Henry, William, Carrie, Lena and Minnie; Bertha, who married William Heinrich, of Seney, this county; Matilda, who married Samuel Uthe, of Le Mars; Anna, who married Matt Myers, of Sioux City; Marie, who married Hugh Dailey, of Paullina, in the neighboring county of O'Brien, and has four children, Marion, Robert, James and Kenneth; Dorothea, who married Edward Roecter and has five children, Alton, Dwight, Fred, Pauline and Marjorie; Henry, who married Carrie Durban and has one child, a son, Charles; Edward, who married Della Webber and has one child, a son, Robert; Arthur, who married Hettie Reints, and Minnie, deceased. Mrs. Detloff, as was her husband, is a member of the German Methodist Episcopal church, and the children were reared in that faith.

REV. CHARLES A. MOCK, PH. D.

The Rev. Charles A. Mock, Ph. D., president of the Western Union College at Le Mars and one of the best-known educators in the central west, is a native of Pennsylvania, born on a farm in Bedford county, that state, August 7, 1873, son of David B. and Elizabeth (Colebaugh) Mock, natives of that same state, the former of whom is still living there and the latter of whom died in December, 1906. David B. Mock is one of the most substantial citizens in his home community and for ten years served as justice of the peace. To him and his wife were born eleven children, of whom nine are still living, all save the subject of this sketch being residents of Pennsylvania.

Reared on the home farm, Charles A. Mock received his elementary education in the public schools of his home neighborhood and then entered the Central Pennsylvania College, from which he was graduated in 1898 with the degree of Bachelor of Arts, his later studies being rewarded with the degree of Doctor of Philosophy from Grove City College at Grove City, Pennsylvania, in 1905, and the degrees of Master of Arts and Bach-



REV. CHARLES A. MOCK, PH.D

elor of Divinity from Yale University in 1911. Upon receiving his degree in 1898, Doctor Mock was ordained to the ministry of the United Evangelical church and during the years 1898-1901 was engaged in the gospel ministry at Oil City, Pennsylvania, later accepting a call to Johnstown, Pennsylvania, where he served as pastor during the years 1901-05. He then accepted a call to the chair of Greek and Latin in Dallas College, Oregon, and for four years occupied that chair, during three years of which time he also served as president of the college. In 1909 Doctor Mock entered Yale University and remained there in study until June, 1911, when he accepted the presidency of Western Union College at Le Mars and has ever since occupied that important position in the scholastic life of this state, making his home at Le Mars. Doctor Mock brought to the position he now occupies not only a scholarly and well-trained mind, but executive abilities of a high order and his administration of the affairs of the college has done very much to advance the interests of that sterling old institution. Doctor Mock is a member of the American Academy of Political and Social Science and of the National Geographic Society and spends a good deal of his time in the field lecturing on religious and educational subjects, and also does considerable work along that same line on undenominational topics, having a fine reputation as a lecturer.

On December 15, 1897, the Rev. Charles A. Mock was united in marriage to Sue E. Allison, of Bedford county, Pennsylvania, and to this union two children have been born, sons both, Byron Fay, born on April 3, 1899, and Charles Edgar, July 22, 1906.

FRANK BEELNER.

Frank Beelner, a well-known dairy farmer of Remsen township, was born in Luxemburg on July 28, 1870, the son of Mott and Anna Beelner, farming people, the latter of whom died in 1890. Three years later, in 1893, Mott Beelner came to America and located in Black Hawk county, this state, later coming to Plymouth county and engaged in farming with his son, Frank, for fifteen years, after which he rented a farm for a short time and then returned to Luxemburg, where he died. He and his wife were the parents of ten children, Frank being the only one in this country. Mott Beelner and wife were active members of the Catholic church and were prominent in church work.

Frank Beelner received but a limited education in the schools of Luxemburg and there resided and worked on a farm until he was twenty-two years of age, when, in 1892, he came to the United States and located at Gilbertsville, Iowa, where he remained for one year, when he removed to Dyersville and was there engaged on a milk route until 1895, when he came to Plymouth county and located south of Remsen, where he rented a farm of two hundred acres. There he remained until 1912, when he moved on to his farm of seventy acres in the northwest part of Remsen, where he erected a beautiful house and made other valuable improvements and is engaged in general and dairy farming. He believes in the highest grading of intensive farming and the keeping of the best of stock, and has at this time some fifteen head of fine milch cows.

In 1898 Frank Beelner was united in marriage to Margaret Ludwig, the daughter of Theodore and Maggie Ludwig, both of whom were natives of Luxemburg, where they received their education in the public schools, where they grew to manhood and womanhood and were married. After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Ludwig continued to live in the land of their nativity for some years, after which they came to America. They located in Iowa and Mr. Ludwig rented a farm in Dubuque county for some years, later coming to Plymouth county, where he obtained a farm which he developed and improved, and there he resided until 1907, when he retired to Remsen, where he was killed by a railroad engine in 1910. The wife and mother died some years ago. Mr. and Mrs. Ludwig were long prominent in the social and the religious life of the community and were held in the highest regard by all who knew them.

To Frank and Margaret (Ludwig) Beelner were born six children, Matthew, Michael, Theodore, Mary, Rose and Catherine, all of whom are at home. Mrs. Margaret Beelner died on April 30, 1912. She and her husband were active members of the Catholic church at Remsen and were prominent in the social and the religious life of the community. Mrs. Beelner was a woman of much ability and was held in the highest regard by all. She was an affectionate wife and mother and a kind neighbor, and her death was mourned by many whom she had befriended during sickness and trouble. She devoted her life to her family and her neighbors and friends and accomplished much good during her active and useful life.

Politically, Frank Beelner is identified with the Democrat party and has always taken an active interest in the local affairs of his township. He has not aspired to office, yet has done much in the development and the

growth of the district. On landing in the United States, Frank Beelner had but one dollar. By constant effort and close application to business he has succeeded and today is recognized as one of the substantial and successful men of the community. His farm is under a high state of development and he keeps both the farm and his buildings in a good state of repair.

Frank Beelner is a member of the L. B. A. Society, of the Roman Catholic Mutual Protective Society and of the Knights of Columbus, in the affairs of which he takes much interest and is among the prominent and active workers. He is broad and generous in his views and is one of the progressive men of the county.

CAIS MONTAGNE.

Cais Montagne, one of the prominent citizens of Merrill and at present mayor of that city, was born in Guilford township, Jo Daviess county, Illinois, on January 29, 1853, the son of Firmin and Justine (Bain) Montagne, natives, respectively, of Quebec, Canada, and Lafayette county, Wisconsin. They received their education in their respective communities and there grew to manhood and womanhood. They were both of French ancestors and their families were prominent in their home districts. As a young man, Firmin Montagne left his native country and came to the United States. He located in Lafayette county, Wisconsin, and there met and married Justine Bain. In Lafayette county Mr. Montagne engaged in general farming and in mining. He became a well-known resident of the county and was prominent in the civic life of the community. He and his wife were members of the Catholic church and were active in the social and the religious life of the community, where they were held in the highest regard and esteem by all who knew them. Firmin Montagne died in Illinois in 1863, and his widow, years later, came to Plymouth county, where she died on November 22, 1903. They were the parents of the following children: Cais, Josephine, Elizabeth, Theodore, Rosalin, and Isabelle. Josephine is the wife of John Saam and lives in Illinois. Elizabeth married Isadore Rebrick and is a resident of McCook county, South Dakota. Theodore and Rosaline are now deceased and Isabelle has always lived at home with her brother, Cais. The children were all educated in the public schools of Jo Daviess county, Illinois, and later came to Plymouth county with the mother, in 1882, with whom they lived until her death. Upon coming to

this county in 1882 they obtained a small farm, to which they later added until they had two hundred and forty acres of good land. This farm they developed and improved and made one of the best farms in the township. They later sold the place and moved to Merrill. Cais and Isabelle Montagne purchased the George Howes property in Merrill and have since made that their home and are among the prominent people of the community.

Cais Montagne has always taken an active interest in the civic life of the community and has long been identified with the Democrat party. He has served as trustee and as a member of the school board for the past thirty-four years, and for the past eight years he has been mayor of Merrill, in which important position he has given general satisfaction and has done much for the improvement of the place. He is progressive in his views and is a firm believer in all public improvements that will add to the growth and the development of his home town. He and his sister are active in the work of the Catholic church and take much interest in church work. They have living with them, Rosaline, the daughter of their sister, Mrs. Burrill.

A. H. DENNLER.

A. H. Dennler, a well-known and prominent, retired farmer of Merrill, this county, was born in Laporte, Indiana, on January 23, 1866, the son of George and Anna R. (Morf) Dennler, natives of Switzerland, who received their education in the public schools of their native land and there spent the early years of their lives. When eighteen years of age George Dennler came alone to America and on his arrival in the United States he proceeded directly to Indiana and there located at Laporte, where he learned the blacksmith trade, at which he worked for a number of years. Anna R. Morf also came to the United States and with her parents located at Laporte. There she and Mr. Dennler were married and there they continued to live until 1872, when they decided to locate in Iowa. They homesteaded eighty acres in Liberty township, Plymouth county, to which they later added and became the owners of four hundred and forty acres of splendid land. This land they developed and improved and there George Dennler engaged in general farming and stock raising and worked at his trade until the time of his death.

When first locating on the place George Dennler built a small shack, in which the family lived for a number of years. A straw barn was built

for the stock and a fine grove was planted. In time the rude structures were replaced by good and substantial buildings and the farm developed into one of the finest in the township. Mr. Dennler always took much interest in local affairs and had much to do with the early civic life of the township and the county. He served as school director of his district and was road boss for Liberty township for a number of years. He was a progressive citizen and did much for the advancement of the interests of both the township and the county. He and his wife were the parents of five children, George J., Albert, Gus, Edward and Mrs. Mary Heiden. Mr. and Mrs. Dennler took an active interest in the social and the religious life of the community and were held in the highest regard and esteem by all who knew them. They devoted their lives to the interests of their family and to the betterment of the community in which they lived.

A. H. Dennler received his education in the public schools of Liberty township and grew to manhood on the home farm, where as a lad he assisted his father with the farm work. After completing his education he farmed at home, and later he and his brother, George, farmed together, having two hundred and eighty acres. This farm they developed and made one of the ideal places of the township, and there A. H. Dennler remained, engaged in general farming and stock raising, until April, 1912, when he retired from the activities of farm life and moved to Merrill, where he now resides.

On June 24, 1897, A. H. Dennler was united in marriage to Emma Veidt, the daughter of George and Emma Veidt, and to this union five children have been born, Arnold, Florence, Beulah, Leta and Lucile. The children are all receiving their education in the public schools of Merrill and are all at home. The family have long been prominent in the social and the religious life of the community and are held in high regard by all.

Politically, A. H. Dennler is identified with the Republican party and has always taken much interest in local affairs. He is a progressive citizen, a strong advocate of the highest class of public improvements, and believes in the maintenance of the best of schools. Because of his excellent judgment and wide experience, he has often been consulted in matters relating to the civic affairs of both the township and the county. As a farmer and stock man he has been recognized as one of the foremost, and is considered among the substantial and successful men of the community. Mr. Dennler is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, of the Modern Woodmen of America, of the Knights of Pythias and of the Mutual Benefit Association, in the affairs of all of which organizations he takes an active

interest. He and his family have a beautiful home, and both Mr. and Mrs. Dennler take much interest in the pleasure and happiness of their children, their constant aim being to give them the best possible educational advantages and to rear them amid the best possible social conditions.

LAWRENCE MULHERON.

Lawrence Mulheron, a well-known and well-to-do farmer of Sioux township, this county, is a native of the Dominion of Canada, but has been a resident of Iowa since he was fourteen years of age. He was born at Toronto on May 21, 1857, son of William and Margaret (Byron) Mulheron, also natives of Canada, of Scotch-Irish descent, the former born on March 14, 1829, and the latter in 1834.

William Mulheron was a baker by trade and followed that trade in Toronto for some years after his marriage, or until the middle sixties, when he moved with his family to New York state and in the vicinity of the city of Elmira was engaged in the nursery business for five or six years, at the end of which time, in 1871, he came with his family to Iowa and set up in the nursery business in Clinton county, where he was thus engaged until 1875, when he moved to Crawford county and was there engaged in farming until 1901, in which year he and his wife retired from the farm and moved to Portland, Oregon, where Mrs. Mulheron died five or six years ago and where Mr. Mulheron is still living. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, as was his wife, and their children were reared in that faith. There were seven of these children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the second in order of birth, the others being as follow: Mollie, who married John L. Hill and lives in Oregon; Ella, who married Samuel Atwood and also lives in Oregon; Sadie, who married H. C. Paulson and also lives in Oregon; Lizzie, who married Samuel Atchison and died in Oregon, and Frank, a bookkeeper, now residing in Oregon.

Lawrence Mulheron was but a child when his parents moved from Canada to New York state and was about fourteen when they moved from the latter state to Iowa. He completed his schooling in the schools of Crawford county and remained on the home farm, a valued assistant to his father in the development of the same, until he was twenty-four years old, when he started farming on his own account, renting a farm in Crawford county and after his marriage some two years later established his home on that

place, continuing to make his home in Crawford county until 1901, in which year he sold his farm there and came to Plymouth county, where he since has resided. Upon coming here Mr. Mulheron bought a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in section 26 of Sioux township, erected a substantial set of buildings on the place and he and his family are there very comfortably situated. In his political views, Mr. Mulheron is a Republican and has served the public in the capacity of a school director.

It was on April 3, 1883, that Lawrence Mulheron was united in marriage to Ida M. Squibb, who was born in Clinton county, Iowa, daughter of Caleb and Mary (Zumbro) Squibb, who later became residents of Crawford county, this state, and to this union ten children have been born, namely: Grace, who married Charles Mackey and continues to make her home in Crawford county; Mabel, who married Samuel McSparran and lives in this county; Pearl, who married William Warren and also makes her home in this county; Fay and Ray, twins, the former of whom is at home and the latter of whom died in his third year; Hazel, who lives at Sioux City, and Arthur, Fern, Ethel and Leonard, at home. The Mulherons have a very pleasant home and take a proper interest in the general social activities of the community in which they live, helpful in the promotion of all movements having to do with the advancement of the common welfare thereabout.

J. A. HENTGES.

J. A. Hentges, recorder of Plymouth county, whose record of continuous re-election to office since he was first elected in 1908 proclaims him one of the most popular men in the county, was born in the city of Le Mars and has lived there all his life. Though badly handicapped in the race of life, a cripple from birth, Mr. Hentges has ever maintained a cheerful spirit and has done well his part in the general life of the community in which he lives. He was born on August 1, 1880, son of Nicholas and Anna (Wagner) Hentges, the former a native of Germany and the latter of Iowa, both of whom are still living at Le Mars. Nicholas Hentges was born in the grand duchy of Luxemburg and when a young man came to the United States, proceeding on out to Iowa, and in 1870 located at Le Mars, where he ever since has made his home, for many years having been one of the best-known contractors in that city. It was after locating at Le Mars that Nicholas Hentges was united in marriage to Anna Wagner, who was born

in this state, and to this union nine children have been born, all of whom are living.

Reared at Le Mars, J. A. Hentges received his education in the parochial and public schools of that city and despite the physical handicap above referred to, early began to take his part in the public life of the community. For four years he served as city scale master and in 1908 was elected, as the nominee of the Democratic party, recorder of Plymouth county, taking office on January 1, 1909. So generally acceptable did the services of Mr. Hentges prove in that connection that he thereafter was elected every two years to the same office without opposition. In the campaign of 1916, however, the opposing party did put a candidate in the field.

In addition to the close attention Mr. Hentges pays to his official duties, he also gives some attention to the general business affairs of his home city and is a member of the board of directors of the Le Mars Savings Bank. He is a member of the Catholic church, of the Knights of Columbus and of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, in the affairs of all of which organizations he takes a warm interest.

JOHN TRAUFLER.

John Traufler, a well-known and well-to-do retired wholesale and retail liquor dealer at Le Mars, is a native of Luxemburg, but has been a resident of this country since the days of his young manhood. He was born on a farm in Luxemburg on April 11, 1863, a son of Michael and Margaret Traufler, both natives of that same country, now deceased, who spent all their lives there and who were the parents of eight children, of whom the subject of this sketch is the only one residing in the United States.

Upon completing his elementary education in the schools of his native country, John Traufler, at the age of thirteen or fourteen years, went to Belgium, where he worked as a farm hand until he was sixteen years of age, when he went to Paris and was there engaged in the railroad service for about two years, at the end of which time he returned to his home in Luxemburg and took up the trade of shoemaker, which he followed for about two years, at the end of which time, in 1885, he came to the United States and, proceeding straightway West, located at Ft. Washington, Wisconsin, in the neighborhood of which place he engaged his services as a farm hand, at fourteen dollars a month, and was thus engaged there for six months. He



JOHN TRAVELER AND FAMILY

then came to Iowa and for about three years thereafter was engaged as a farm hand in the neighborhood of Marcus, in Cherokee county, afterward coming to Plymouth county, locating at Remsen, where he secured employment as driver of a wagon for M. E. Beck's creamery. Not long afterward Mr. Traufler started a saloon at Remsen and was thus engaged in business at that place for about ten years, at the end of which time he moved over to Le Mars and extending his business to include a large wholesale trade which he developed in this part of the country, continued in business there until the prohibition enactment became operative on January 1, 1916, since which time he has been living retired, giving his attention to his considerable farming interests in Plymouth county and other interests at Le Mars. In addition to the interests he has developed at Le Mars, Mr. Traufler is the owner of a fine farm of two hundred and forty acres in America township and is regarded as one of Plymouth county's substantial citizens, a marked contrast to his financial condition the day he landed in New York City upon his arrival in this country in 1885, he then having had but eleven dollars in his pocket.

On January 9, 1893, John Traufler was united in marriage to Mary Ostert, daughter of Valentine Ostert and wife, and to this union six children have been born, Paul, Aloysius, Nicholas, Felix, John and Isadore, all of whom are at home. The Trauflers are members of St. Joseph's German Catholic church and Mr. Traufler is a member of the Catholic Order of Foresters and of the Catholic Mutual Protective Association, of which latter organization he was for ten years secretary and treasurer. He is an independent Republican and for years has given close attention to local civic affairs, but has not been a seeker after public office.

HUGH MASON.

The rugged little country of Wales has sent many of her sons to our Republic, where they have found broader opportunities, and they have been welcomed everywhere for reasons too obvious to detail here. One of this number is Hugh Mason, now living in retirement at Kingsley, this county.

Hugh Mason was born in Radnorshire, Wales, August 17, 1846, a son of John and Mary (Whilding) Mason, the former of whom was a blacksmith by trade and lived in the British Isles all his life, dying when his son Hugh, was three years old. The latter's mother died at his birth and he was adopted by an uncle and aunt, Benjamin Layton and wife, with whom

he lived until he entered the army. They later immigrated with him to America, locating at Albany, Wisconsin, where they spent seven or eight years on a farm, then moved to a farm near Evansville, Rock county, that state, where Mr. and Mrs. Layton spent the rest of their lives on a farm.

Hugh Mason, who is the only survivor of his family, became a farmer in Wisconsin and on June 14, 1872, he married Susan Trow, who was born at Albany, Green county, Wisconsin, August 12, 1848, a daughter of John and Ann (Griffith) Trow, both natives of England, from which country they brought their family to America, locating on a farm in Wisconsin. Their daughter, Susan, was the first of their family born in Green county, Wisconsin. John Trow, who died in that county, was very active in Republican politics there. He and his wife were Methodists. Their children were as follow: William, who was a soldier in the Union army, in a Wisconsin regiment, was killed in the engagement at Resaca, Georgia; Michael, also a soldier in the Civil War, served in the First Wisconsin Heavy Artillery; Horatio, now deceased, took up a homestead and tree claim in South Dakota, also owned a farm in this county, and lived most of his life in Elkhorn township; Susan, wife of the subject of this sketch; John Alfred, who is now living on the home place in Green county, Wisconsin, and Mary, Sarah and Margaret, the three youngest children.

Hugh Mason came to Plymouth county from Rock county, Wisconsin, in true pioneer style, driving horses overland to Elkhorn township, trading his horses for cattle upon reaching here, preferring oxen to do his spring plowing with. This was in the year 1869. He lived here two and one-half years, then returned to Green county, Wisconsin, where he married and brought his wife back to his farm in Plymouth county. He lived on his place in Elkhorn township for a period of twenty-three years, engaging successfully in general farming, then retired and moved to Kingsley. He also followed carpentering and did a great deal of cement work. He owns three-fourths of a section of good land in Elkhorn township, and nine acres on the outskirts of Kingsley, also a half interest in one hundred and sixty acres in South Dakota. While living in Elkhorn township he was active in public affairs. He served on the township board, also as trustee and as a member of the school board. He and his wife belong to the Methodist Episcopal church at Kingsley, and were formerly very active in church affairs, he having been superintendent of the Sunday school and a trustee in the church while living on the farm. He belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He is a veteran of the Civil War, having served nearly

two years in the First Wisconsin Heavy Artillery, enlisting in 1863. He saw considerable hard service in the South and was honorably discharged after the war.

To Mr. and Mrs. Mason the following children have been born: W. H., who is a merchant at Kingsley; John, who lives in Kimball, South Dakota; Anna, the wife of S. D. Wilmer, of Benson, Minnesota; Pearl Susan, a music teacher, who lives at home, and Herman, who is living on his homestead at Winifred, Montana. Mrs. Mason's grandparents on the Trow side died while en route to the United States in 1846. Her maternal grandparents, John and Sarah Griffith, were well-to-do residents of the Birmingham neighborhood in England, John Griffith having been a land-owner and a man of some means. Both he and his wife spent all their lives in England.

J. H. NASON.

J. H. Nason, one of the best-known farmers of Sioux township, this county, is a native of England, but has lived in this country since he was two years of age. He was born in Oxfordshire, January 20, 1872, son of Thomas and Maria (Insall) Nason, also natives of Oxfordshire, who later came to the United States, locating in the neighboring county of Union, over the river in South Dakota, coming thence to Plymouth county and settling in Sioux township, where they are still living, honored and substantial pioneers of this county.

Thomas Nason was born in Oxfordshire on March 29, 1844, son of Thomas and Mary (Starkey) Nason, the former a native of that same shire and the latter of Warwickshire. The elder Thomas Nason was a dyer by trade and he and his wife spent all their lives in their native country. They were the parents of eight children, of whom but one, Thomas, came to this country. The younger Thomas Nason learned the dyer's trade from his father in his youth and followed the same until he came to this country. About 1862 he married and in 1873, leaving his wife and five children in England, he came to the United States with a view to making a new home in this country. After spending six months in Massachusetts he decided to join the rapidly growing army of homesteaders that then was heading out to this part of the country and proceeded to South Dakota. He bought a quarter of a section of school land in Union county, built a log cabin on the same and then sent for his wife and children, who joined him in the

prairie farm in 1874 and there established their home. The Nasons endured the privations incident to the grasshopper visitation and the other hardships the pioneers of this region were compelled to face and eventually got their farm under cultivation, remaining there until 1880, in which year Thomas Nason sold his Union county place and moved over the river into Plymouth county, where he presently bought a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in section 21 of Sioux township and there established his home anew. He improved the place, planted a maple grove and became very comfortably situated, he and his wife continuing to make their home there.

As noted above, it was in 1862, in Oxfordshire, that Thomas Nason was united in marriage to Maria Insall, who was born in that same shire, a daughter of John Insall and wife, and to this union ten children were born, five in England and five in this country, and of whom the subject of this sketch was the fourth in order of birth, the others being as follow: Albert, who continues to make his home with his parents and is farming the home place; Edward, a farmer, living near Sioux bridge in Hancock township; George, a farmer, also of Sioux township; Walter, who is at home; William, a grocer, living at Sioux Falls, South Dakota; Joseph, who is in partnership in the grocery business with his brother William at Sioux Falls; John, at home; Katie, who died at the age of sixteen years, and Annie, at home.

J. H. Nason was about two years old when he was brought to this country from England by his mother to join the father on the pioneer farm in South Dakota and was eight years old when the family moved over to Plymouth county, where he ever since has made his home. He received his schooling in the district schools of Sioux township and was brought up to the life of the farm. In 1899 he bought a tract of eighty acres adjoining his father's place on the north and after his marriage three years later established his home there. He erected all the buildings now on the place and has brought his farm up to a high state of development. In addition to his general farming, for the past seven years Mr. Nason has been the local agent for the sale of the Ford automobiles in his neighborhood and during that time has distributed more than fifty cars in the neighborhood. He is president of his local school district and in other ways has contributed to the public service.

It was in 1902 that J. H. Nason was united in marriage to Jennie Coleman, daughter of Patrick Coleman and wife, early settlers of Plymouth county, and to this union one child has been born, a son, Clarence. The

Nasons are members of the Catholic church and take a proper interest in parish affairs, as well as in the general social activities of the community in which they live.

LOUIS H. SCHULTE.

Louis H. Schulte, treasurer of Plymouth county, former member of the board of county supervisors, former postmaster at Remsen and for many years actively identified with the public affairs of the county, is a native of Iowa and has lived in this state all his life. He was born on a farm in Clayton county, November 22, 1860, son of Garrett and Wilhelmina (Myer) Schulte, both natives of Germany, the former of whom died in the summer of 1861, the subject of this sketch then being but eight months old, leaving four children, William J., Henry, Anna and Louis H., of whom the latter is the only survivor. The widow married Fred Benjegerdes, by whom she had two children, and lived many years afterward, her death occurring in Winneshiek county, this state, in 1915.

Reared on a farm, Louis H. Schulte received his schooling in the common schools of his home neighborhood and early began working at the tinner's trade and clerking in a hardware store, continuing thus employed until failing health drove him to the open and he returned to the farm. He made several trips over to this part of the state and after his marriage in 1888 came to Plymouth county and established his home on a farm four miles south of Remsen, remaining there until his appointment in 1907 to the position of postmaster of Remsen, a position he occupied for eight years. Previous to that time, however, he had been for many years secretary of the Remsen township school board and had also served as township assessor, being elected on the Republican ticket in a Democratic township. Mr. Schulte also served as a member of the board of county supervisors for three terms, a period of nine years, during which time the new court house was erected. In this latter connection, the friends of Mr. Schulte still declare he performed a distinct service on behalf of the public in the vigorous fight he put up in the interests of economy, it having been declared upon the completion of the court house that the work had not been performed in all particulars in accordance with the specifications. Mr. Schulte put up a hard fight against the acceptance of the building, but his contentions were outvoted on the board. So popular did his stand in the matter prove

that a very large following of the voters of the county demanded his nomination in 1914 for the office of county treasurer and he was so nominated, even against his strongly expressed desire not to be, and was elected by a substantial majority over a popular opponent, even though he did not ask a single vote for himself and even went so far as to work in his opponent's behalf. Another instance of the popularity of his stand in the court house matter was the fact that in his last race for county supervisor the opposing party did not nominate a candidate against him.

It was in February, 1888, that Louis H. Schulte was united in marriage to Sophia Mohning, of Clayton county, this state, and to this union two sons have been born, Irving H., who is deputy county treasurer, and Fred. The Schultes are members of the German Evangelical church. Mr. Schulte is the owner of a fine farm of one hundred and seventy-one acres in Remsen township and has long been accounted one of Plymouth county's most substantial citizens.

WILLIAM T. SHEPARD, M. D.

Dr. William T. Shepard, of Le Mars, former president of the Plymouth County Medical Society, former pension examiner for this district and for years one of the best-known physicians in northwestern Iowa, is a native of Ohio, born at Oberlin, that state, October 12, 1865, son of Dr. William A. and Francena (Carter) Shepard, both natives of the state of New York, the former of whom is still living, long a resident of Denver, Colorado. Dr. William A. Shepard is a son of William M. Shepard, also a native of New York, who moved to Ohio and became one of the founders of Oberlin College, his death occurring in Oberlin not many years after he settled there. To Dr. William A. Shepard and wife three sons were born, of whom the subject of this sketch was the last-born and all of whom became physicians, the others being Dr. Edward L. Shepard, of Sand Springs, Montana, and Dr. Charles C. Shepard, of Ord, Nebraska. The mother of these sons died when the last-born was but a child and the father later moved to Dundee, Illinois, later moving to Denver, Colorado, where he now makes his home.

William T. Shepard received his primary schooling at Oberlin, Ohio, and his elementary education at Dundee, Illinois, supplementing the same by a course in the academy at Elgin, same state. He early decided to become a physician and when out of the academy went to New Mexico and there worked on a ranch until he had accumulated sufficient money to pay his

way through medical school, after which he entered Hahneman Medical College at Chicago, from which institution he was graduated in 1888. Meanwhile, however, he had passed the examination of the Iowa state board of Medical examiners and in 1886 had begun the practice of his profession at Hull (then Pattersonville), this state, carrying on there a practice during college vacations. Upon his graduation from medical college, Doctor Shepard found his health somewhat impaired and in the belief that the dry atmosphere of New Mexico would prove beneficial, went to Albuquerque, where he opened an office for the practice of his profession and remained there for five years, at the end of which time he returned to Hull and there remained until 1896, when he went to Chicago and there engaged in special practice. His health again failed him and at the end of a year spent in the city he went to Denver and was there engaged for a year in special practice, treatment of diseases of the nose, throat and lungs being his specialty. In 1899 Doctor Shepard returned to Iowa and located at Le Mars, where he ever since has been engaged in the practice of his profession, with particular reference to his specialty, the treatment of chronic diseases of the nose, throat and lungs, and has been very successful. In 1912 Doctor Shepard invented a preparation for the treatment of constipation and in that same year organized a company with a capital stock of fifty thousand dollars for the manufacture of the same, the preparation being manufactured in a special factory erected for the purpose at Le Mars and is widely marketed under the protected trade-mark of "Cream-Alaska." Doctor Shepard was for five years, 1911-15 inclusive, president of the Plymouth County Medical Society, of which he long has been one of the most active members. He also is a member of the American Medical Society, the Iowa State Medical Society and of the Iowa State Homeopathic Association. For several years, under a Republican administration, he was pension examiner for this district.

On March 16, 1887, Dr. William T. Shepard was united in marriage to Vinnie Teale, of Dundee, Illinois, and to this union two sons have been born, William P., born on July 6, 1895, now a medical student at the University of Minnesota and first sergeant of the hospital corps attached to the First Field Artillery of the Minnesota National Guard, now in federal service on the southern border, and Charles E., born in Denver, September 9, 1898, a graduate of the Le Mars high school, class of 1915, and now attending the University of Minnesota. Doctor and Mrs. Shepard are members of the Congregational church. The Doctor is a Royal Arch Mason, a Knight Templar and a noble of the Ancient Arabic Order of Nobles of

the Mystic Shrine, affiliated with Occidental Chapter No. 114, Royal Arch Masons; Plymouth Commandery No. 57, Knights Templar, at Le Mars, and with Abu Bekr Temple, Mystic Shrine, at Sioux City.

GEORGE HENRY BENJEGERDES.

George Henry Benjegerdes, one of the best-known and most substantial pioneer farmers of Plymouth county and owner of a fine farm of two hundred and forty acres in Marion township, is a native of the state of Illinois, but has been a resident of Iowa since he was five years of age and of Plymouth county since 1874. He was born on a farm in Washington county, Illinois, December 30, 1847, son of Dietrich Benjegerdes and wife, natives of Germany, who settled in Illinois in 1843.

Dietrich Benjegerdes and his wife left their native Oldenburg in 1843 and came to the United States, proceeding West and settling in Washington county, Illinois, where the former died in 1848, leaving his wife with five small children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the fifth in order of birth, the others being as follow: Dietrich, who became a well-known resident of Clayton county, this state, married a Miss Walker, after whose death he married Christina Hentges; Frederick, a veteran of the Civil War, who served for three years as a member of an Iowa regiment, later locating at Manly, this state, becoming a well-to-do farmer and merchant there, where he died in 1915; John, also of Manly, a farmer, who died in 1893, and one daughter, who died in her early youth. The mother of these children, after the death of her husband, came to Iowa in 1852 to make her home with the family of her late husband's brother, Fred Benjegerdes, in Clayton county, and there she later married George High, a former soldier in the German army, who had come to this country, and located in Clayton county, this state, where she spent the rest of her life.

George H. Benjegerdes was but a child when he moved to Clayton county with his mother and stepfather and there he grew to manhood, remaining on the home farm until his marriage in the fall of 1874, when he came to Plymouth county with his bride and established his home in Marion township, where he has resided ever since, thus being one of the pioneers of that part of the country. Upon coming to this county Mr. Benjegerdes bought a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in section 27 of Marion township and by the first of April of the succeeding year had a



GEORGE H. BENJEGERDES AND FAMILY

small house, fourteen by sixteen, built on the same and ready for occupancy. He brought with him sufficient nursery stock with which to start a grove on his place and shrubbery about the house and in due time had a fine grove and one of the best-improved farms in that part of the country. He suffered, in common with all the pioneers of this section of the state, during the grasshopper visitations; but was able to tide over the losses sustained during those years and presently began to see his way clear and in time increased his land holdings until now he is the owner of a fine farm of two hundred and forty acres, with a substantial residence and commodious farm buildings. In addition to his general farming, Mr. Benjegerdes has ever given considerable attention to the raising of high-grade live stock and in the latter line has done very well, his present specialties in live stock being thoroughbred Hereford cattle and Duroc-Jersey hogs. In his political views Mr. Benjegerdes is "independent," reserving his vote for such candidates as are in his opinion best qualified for the performance of the duties of the office to which they aspire. He has given close attention to local civic affairs for many years and has served the public in the capacity of township trustee and as township assessor.

It was on September 3, 1874, in Clayton county, this state, that George H. Benjegerdes was united in marriage to Anna Meyer, who was born in that county, a daughter of Louis and Anna (Werges) Meyer, natives of Germany, the former of Prussia and the latter of Hanover, who came to this country with their respective parents in the days of their youth, the two families settling in Ohio, where they were married, coming thence, about 1849, to Iowa and settling in Clayton county, where Louis Meyer spent the rest of his life, for sixty-five years a continuous resident of the farm he took upon locating there, his death occurring in 1914, and where his widow is still living, being now at the age of eighty-one years. Louis Meyer was a member of the German Evangelical church, as is his widow, and their children were reared in the faith of that church. There were twelve of these children, eight of whom are still living, those besides Mrs. Benjegerdes being as follow: Minnie, who lives at Monroe, this state; William, of Clayton county; May, of Manly, this state; Fred, living at Postville, this state; Louise, of Manly; Charles, who is living on the old home place in Clayton county, and Elizabeth, who is living at Manly.

To George H. and Anna (Meyer) Benjegerdes seven children have been born, namely: Louis, who died at the age of eleven years; Mary, who married Charles Martin, now living at Garretson, South Dakota, and has three

children, Henry, Ella and Dietrich; Lena, who is living in Worth county, this state; Anna, who married Charles Harnack, of Garretson, and has one child, a daughter, Lillian; Minnie, who is at home with her parents; Dietrich, who received his education at the College for the Blind at Vinton, where he was in attendance for nearly eight years and where he became an accomplished musician, the harp being the instrument of his special choice, though he is a skilled performer on numerous other musical instruments, and William, who is assisting in the management of the home farm. The Benjegerdes are members of St. Paul's German Evangelical Lutheran church and take a warm interest in the affairs of that parish, as well as in the general social activities of the community in which they live, ever helpful factors in the promotion of movements having to do with the advancement of the common welfare thereabout. It is a matter of interesting note that this is the only family of the name of Benjegerdes in Plymouth county and one of the few families of that name in this country.

NOAH R. KNAPP.

Noah R. Knapp, one of Plymouth county's best-known and most substantial pioneers and a large landowner in Sioux township, former trustee of that township and for many years actively identified with the civic development of that part of the county, is a native of this part of the country and has lived hereabout all his life. He was born on a pioneer farm over the river in Union county, South Dakota, March 26, 1869, son of Cyrus and Harriet (Palmer) Knapp, pioneers of that region, who later came over into Plymouth county and established a home on this side of the river, prominent pioneers of Sioux township, where they spent the rest of their lives.

Both the Knapps and the Palmers are of old New England stock, descendants of English folk who settled in Massachusetts with the Puritans in the early part of the seventeenth century and became the progenitors of numerous families, the descendants of the two lines now being found in various parts of the United States. Cyrus Knapp was born on a farm in Chautauqua county, New York, May 14, 1834, son of Levi and Samantha (Follette) Knapp, both of whom were born in Danbury, Connecticut, and who, when children, accompanied their respective parents into Chautauqua county, New York, where they grew up and were married. Levi Knapp

was born on October 1, 1799, son of Jehu Knapp, a soldier of the War of 1812, who was born at Danbury, Connecticut, November 17, 1767, a son of John Knapp, also born at Danbury, in 1738, a son of Moses Knapp, also born at Danbury, in 1705, a son of Samuel Knapp, who was born at Stamford, Connecticut, in 1668, a son of Caleb Knapp, who was born at Watertown, Massachusetts, June 20, 1637, a son of Nicholas Knapp, the first of the line in America, who came from England in 1630, a member of the colony headed by John Winthrop, afterward governor of the Massachusetts colony, and established his family in this country. In 1853 Levi Knapp moved with his family from New York state to Illinois, bought a farm in the Leaf River neighborhood, near Rockford, established his home there and there spent the rest of his life, his death occurring in 1866.

Cyrus Knapp was about nineteen years old when he came West with his parents and settled in Illinois and he there married Harriet Palmer, who was born at Stonington, Connecticut, September 10, 1842, daughter of Roswell and Mary (Parker) Palmer, also natives of Stonington, the former a descendant of Walter Palmer, who came to America with the Puritans in 1629 and settled at Charleston, Massachusetts. In 1848 the Palmers moved from Connecticut to Illinois and settled in the Leaf River community, and it was there that Cyrus Knapp and Harriett Palmer were married. Cyrus Knapp became a landowner there and substantial farmer. During the trying days of "border ruffianism" in Kansas he became one of the Illinois colonists who went over into Kansas Territory to swell the anti-slavery and "free-soil" forces and during the time of his residence there was a participant in numerous exciting and hazardous adventures incident to the times and place. In 1866 he came with his family to this part of the country, bent on homesteading, and settled in Union county, South Dakota, the trip being made by rail as far as Cedar Falls and thence by "prairie schooner." Upon coming up here Mr. Knapp homesteaded a quarter section lying between Elk Point and Jefferson and there established his home, building a log house on the plain and starting in to break and develop his farm, and there he remained for eight years, at the end of which time, in 1874, he moved across the river into Plymouth county and bought a farm of five hundred and fifty acres in the northwest corner of what is now Hancock township, and there again established a home on the prairie, the place now occupied by his son, Cyrus P. Knapp, a biographical sketch of whom is presented elsewhere in this volume. The new tract, bounded on the west by the Sioux river, extended back to the hills on the east, and soon became a well-developed and highly-

improved farm under the skillful cultivation of Cyrus Knapp and his stalwart sons. On that place Cyrus Knapp and his wife spent their last days, the former dying on June 1, 1903, and the latter on April 8, 1916, honored and respected pioneers of Plymouth county.

From the very beginning of his residence in this part of the county, Cyrus Knapp took an earnest and active interest in the political affairs of this region. Not long after locating in Union county he was elected a member of the territorial Legislature and in that capacity rendered excellent service in behalf of the future state. Each member of the Legislature being given the privilege of naming a county in the territory, Representative Knapp chose thus to commemorate the name of his old friend, General Tripp, and it was thus that by his direction Tripp county, South Dakota, bears its name. Upon coming to Plymouth county he took an equally active part in local affairs and served in several public capacities, such as township trustee, clerk of the township and a member of the school board. He was the moving spirit in the division of Sioux township and the creation of Hancock township and to him was given the honor of naming the new township, which he named in honor of General Hancock. To Cyrus and Harriet (Palmer) Knapp thirteen children were born, namely: George, born in 1862, who died in infancy; Lily, 1864, who married S. S. Sanford and now lives at Verndale, Minnesota; Oron, 1865, who died at Alberta, Canada, in 1911; Charles L., 1867, a biographical sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this volume; Noah R., the subject of this biographical sketch; William H., born in 1870, a farmer, living at Gilchrist, Colorado; Rosa, 1872, who married William J. Bennett and lives at Akron, this county; Daisy, 1874, who married Michael Goodnes and lives at Lake Andes, South Dakota; Myrtle, 1876, who married Henry Crowe and lives at Chatsworth, this state; Ivy, 1878, who married C. P. Nissen and lives at Ryegate, Montana; Cyrus P., 1880, who is living on the old home place in Hancock township; Clarence A., 1882, who is unmarried and makes his home with his brother, Cyrus, and Mabel, 1888, who died when ten years of age.

Noah R. Knapp was about five years old when his parents moved over from Union county to Plymouth county and he was reared on the pioneer farm of his father in that part of what then was Sioux township, now in Hancock township, receiving his schooling in the local schools and making a competent "hand" on the home farm. When a young man he was sent over into Union county to take charge of his father's old homestead place there and there he made his home for twelve years, at the end of which time he returned to Plymouth county and bought a farm of one

hundred and sixty acres in section 9 of Sioux township and there made his home for another period of twelve years. He then bought a quarter section in section 22 of that same township, established his home there and has ever since made that his place of residence, he and his family being very comfortably and very pleasantly situated. Both of Mr. Knapp's farms are well improved and he long has been regarded as one of the most substantial farmers in that part of the county. He is a Democrat and has served his community in the capacity of township trustee and as president of his local school district.

In 1897 Noah R. Knapp was united in marriage to Lena Wilcox, who was born at Pleasant Valley, Illinois, a daughter of Francis and Adelia (Nourse) Wilcox, the former of whom died at that place, after which his widow married A. F. Whitney and came to Iowa, settling at Akron, in this county, but later moved to Moreland, Kansas. Lena Wilcox received an excellent education in Illinois and after coming to this county in 1890 became a school teacher and was thus engaged until her marriage to Mr. Knapp. To this union two children have been born, Lois, born on November 30, 1897, now a student at Morningside College at Sioux City, and Ward, November 2, 1900. Mrs. Knapp is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and the family take an earnest interest in the general good works of the community.

CHRIS F. ADLER.

It is in such countries as the United States that full swing can be given to the energies of the individual. A man may choose any business or profession he desires, and he is limited only to competition. There is competition in farming the same as any line of endeavor, but the man who farms as skillfully as Chris F. Adler did in his active days always succeeds.

Chris F. Adler, who is now living in retirement in Le Mars, formerly operated his excellent farm in Marion township. He was born in Hennepin county, Minnesota, May 16, 1860, and there grew to manhood and attended the public schools, after which he moved with his parents to Iowa, the family locating in Marion township, Plymouth county, buying one hundred and sixty acres of land, where the father carried on general farming, and added to his place until he owned four hundred and eighty acres, also two hundred acres in Sioux county, Iowa. The subject of this sketch is a son of Chris F. and Christina (Miller) Adler. They were natives of Wurtem-

burg, Germany, where they spent their earlier years, coming to America from there and locating for a time in Illinois, then moving to Minnesota and buying one hundred and sixty acres in Hennepin county, which they farmed until 1875. They were parents of twelve children, five of whom are living at this writing, Chris F., Jr., being the only one in Plymouth county. He came here with the rest of the family and worked with his father on the home farm four and one-half years, then married and began farming for himself, buying one hundred and twenty acres in Marion township. He also became owner of one hundred and sixty acres in Sioux county, which he recently sold, and one hundred and sixty acres in South Dakota. He was very successful as a general farmer and stock raiser and in 1915 he sold out and moved to Le Mars, where he owns a modern home, in which he has since lived in retirement.

In 1889 Mr. Adler was married to Anna Gronow, a daughter of Charles Gronow and wife, and to this union six children have been born, George, Neda, Walter, Ben, Lawrence, and Gerhart. Neda married John Karly and has two children, Lennis and Evelyn. Mr. Adler is a Republican and served as school director for two years. He belongs to the German Methodist church.

JOHN MANSFIELD.

John Mansfield, deceased, a former well-known and successful farmer and stockman of Plymouth county, was born in County Waterford, Ireland, and died in Merrill, Iowa, in November, 1907, at the age of seventy-four years. He was the son of James Mansfield and wife who lived and died in Ireland. Of the family, three came to the United States, John, James and Edward. Edward died at Sioux City and James died in the South. John Mansfield had but a limited education, which he received in the public schools of his native country, and there he grew to manhood. As a lad and young man he worked as a farm hand and soon decided that he would come to America. On his arrival in this country he came direct to Wisconsin, locating at Shellsburg, where he worked on public works for a time and in the mines. He later removed to Jo Daviess county, Illinois, where he remained until 1876, when he came to Iowa and settled at Sioux City and there worked on the railroad for four years. After that time he homesteaded in Liberty township, Plymouth county. This farm he developed and improved, and here he engaged in general farming and stock raising,

until 1904, at which time he retired from the activities of farm life and became a resident of Merrill, where he died. He was quite successful in his work and became the owner of two hundred and forty acres of excellent land, all of which was under high cultivation and well improved.

John Mansfield was united in marriage in Jo Daviess county, Illinois, to Nora Nugent, who was born in County Waterford, Ireland, and there lived until she was eleven years of age, when she came to the United States with her parents, John and Johanna (Scanlon) Nugent, also natives of Ireland, who continued to live in the land of their nativity for a number of years after their marriage, and there their children were born. They later decided to come to America and here make a home for themselves and their family. After their arrival in this country, they came to Wisconsin and located at Shellsburg, where the father worked in the mines for a number of years. They later removed to Jo Daviess county, Illinois, where Mr. Nugent engaged in farming, and there he and his wife died a number of years ago. They were the parents of nine children, five of whom are now living, namely: John, who lives in California; Kate, who resides at Shellsburg, Wisconsin; Matthew, who lives at Carroll, Iowa; Ella, who lives in Wisconsin, and Nora, the wife of John Mansfield.

To John and Nora Mansfield have been born the following children: James (who died in infancy), Alice, John, Hannah, Nora, Charles, Matthew, Charlotte, Herbert and Monica. Alice is a resident of Sioux City. John lives in Plymouth county. Hanna and Charles live in Iowa. Nora is the widow of Thurston Buckley, who was a printer and died in 1909, Mrs. Buckley now making her home with her mother at Merrill. Matthew lives near Huston, Iowa. Charlotte is the wife of D. O. Bogenreif and lives on the old homestead. Herbert lives in Merrill and Monica is the wife of Dan Arioso and lives at Le Mars. The children were all educated in the public schools of Plymouth county and at Sioux City. They were reared in the faith of the Catholic church, and have ever lived in the religious faith of their father and mother. They are members of the church at Merrill, where the family have long been active in the social and religious life of the community, and where they have always been held in the highest regard and esteem by all who know them.

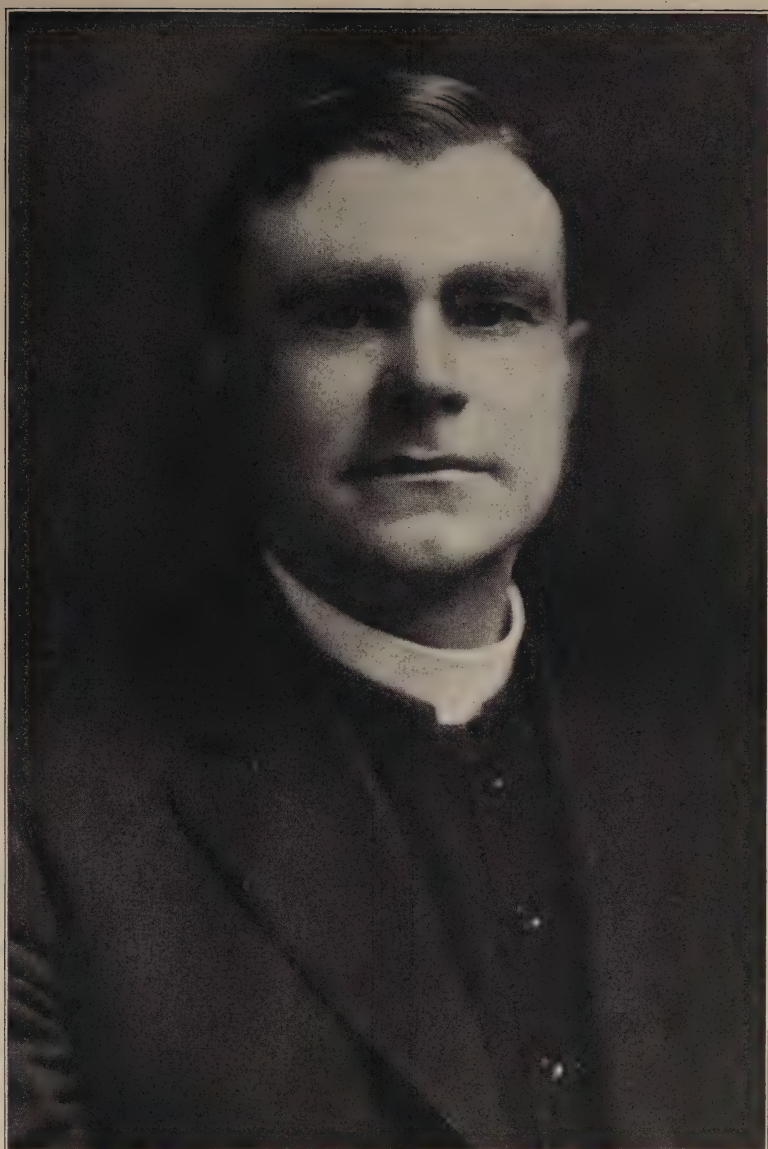
John Mansfield took much interest in the growth and development of the township and the county and had much to do with public affairs. Being a man of broad experience and excellent judgment, he was often consulted in matters relating to the civic affairs of the district. He was identified with the Democratic party, but never aspired to office. He was a patriotic

citizen and entered into the spirit of the government of his adopted county. His life was a worthy one and he accomplished much that was worthy of emulation. Coming to the country, as he did, without funds and among strangers, he soon won for himself a place among the substantial and prominent residents of his community. Mrs. Mansfield is an excellent woman and well informed, having many friends who admire her for her many noble qualities of true womanhood.

REV. J. J. MURPHY.

The Rev. J. J. Murphy, pastor of St. Michael's Catholic church at Kingsley, this county, and one of the best-known and most influential young clergymen in that part of the county, is a native of the Emerald Isle, but has been a resident of Iowa since the days of his young manhood. He was born at Ballyhale, County Kilkenny, Ireland, November 23, 1882, son of John and Johanna (McDonald) Murphy, also natives of Ireland, farming people, members of the famous Murphy family of Wexford, where monuments have been erected in memory of two brothers, Michael and James. John Murphy and wife were the parents of eight children, those beside the subject of this sketch, the third in order of birth, being Patrick, Mary, Peter, John, Michael, Richard and William. Of these children, Dr. John Murphy is now a practicing physician at Danbury, this state.

Early consecrating himself to the service of the church, J. J. Murphy directed his studies to that end in his youth and upon finishing the college course in his native land came to this country and entered St. Joseph's College at Dubuque, this state, from which institution he was graduated in 1904, with the degree of Bachelor of Arts, and was immediately thereafter ordained to holy orders. With a view to further equipping himself for proficiency in his ecclesiastical profession Father Murphy then went to Rome and there entered the American College of the University of the Propaganda and there pursued his studies for four years, receiving the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. He then returned to Iowa and was given a charge, his first pastorate being at Sioux City, where he remained for three years. He then was transferred to the pastorate of the church at Oto, in that same county, and after two years of service there was made pastor, in June, 1913, of the congregation of St. Michael's church at Kingsley and has since been stationed there. During his pastorate at Kingsley Father Murphy has done an excel-



REV. J. J. MURPHY

lent work, St. Michael's parish having grown and developed along all lines under his ministration. Under his direction the parish built a comfortable parish house in 1913, the year in which he took charge there, and in 1915 the handsome new church was erected. St. Michael's parish numbers about four hundred souls and there is attached to that charge the neighboring parish at Moville, which numbers one hundred souls or more and which is under the direction of Father Murphy.

JOHN W. TURTON.

John W. Turton, a retired blacksmith and now a well-known and successful automobile dealer at Merrill, was born in Boone county, this state, on April 23, 1868, the son of John and Myra Turton, who were born in England and were there married. As a young man John Turton engaged in work in the steel mills of his native country, where he was employed as a hammer man. He and his wife continued to reside in the land of their birth until 1864, when they decided to seek a home for themselves and their family in America. On their arrival in the United States they remained for a time in Pennsylvania, after which they removed to Iowa and were located for a time in Boone county, where the son, John W., was born. Their great desire was to have a home of their own, and with this end in view they homesteaded eighty acres of land in section 30, Washington township, Plymouth county. That was in 1869 and the father at once set to work to clear and improve the place. He was not to enjoy the pleasures of his new home for many years, however, as he died in 1872. His widow survived him until 1915. Mr. and Mrs. Turton made the journey from Boone county with horses and wagon and encountered many of the hardships of the early pioneers on the plains. Upon settling here, their nearest trading point was at Sioux City, many miles away. Their only living child is John W. Turton, the subject of this sketch.

John W. Turton received his education in the public schools of Washington township and there grew to manhood. As a lad and young man he learned the blacksmith and machine business, at which he worked for twenty-four years. Having learned his trade at Le Mars, where he remained for a year and a half, he moved to Washington township, where he built a shop and continued at his trade, in connection with the operation of his one-hundred-and-sixty-acre farm. He continued there until 1904, when he

moved to Merrill, where he continued his work until 1910, when he retired from the work as a blacksmith and engaged in the automobile business, as agent for the Buick car. He still owns his farm and takes much interest in its management. As a blacksmith, farmer and business man, Mr. Thurton has been successful, and is recognized as one of the substantial citizens of the county.

In 1891 John W. Turton was united in marriage to Amelia Backeberg, daughter of Henry Backeberg and wife. To this union the following children have been born: Clara, Florence, John, Mary (who died in infancy), Myrtle and Eva. Florence is the wife of Ralph Allen and has one child, Lile. The other children are at home. Mr. Turton is a Republican and has served as a member of city council of Merrill and as trustee of Washington township. Fraternally, he is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and Knights of Pythias, as well as of the Woodmen of the World.

ROBERT SCHULTZ.

It was over thirty years ago that Robert Schultz came to Plymouth county and here he has resided ever since, doing his part in the general change that has come over the face of the land, and his labors have benefited alike the locality where he has lived and himself.

Robert Schultz, who is now living in retirement in Le Mars, after a long career as a general farmer, was born in Prussia, Germany, November 16, 1846. He is a son of Carl and Charlotte Schultz, both natives of Prussia, also, where they grew up, were married and established their home. The father was a wagonmaker by trade, which he followed all his life. His death occurred on the Atlantic ocean while en route to America, and he was buried in New York. His family consisted of eight children, Robert and Frank being the only ones living in Plymouth county. The widow and her children came on West, locating in Whiteside county, Illinois, near Sterling, where Robert grew to manhood and attended the public schools; however he received only a limited education for it was necessary for him to work hard when a boy, helping to support the family. He worked out as a farm hand until 1884 when he came to Iowa and rented a farm in Fredonia township, Plymouth county, for seven years; then bought eighty acres, for which he paid thirty dollars an acre, later increasing his holdings to one hundred and sixty acres, on which he successfully carried on general

farming and stock raising and added all modern improvements. He also owns one hundred and sixty acres in South Dakota. He continued active farming in Fredonia township until 1909, when he retired from active life, moving to Le Mars where he has since resided. He has been very successful. He was in debt one hundred and fifty dollars when he came to Plymouth county, thirty-two years ago, but he went to work with a will and forged ahead until he can now spend his declining years in peace and comfort.

In 1884 Robert Schultz married Kate Jurgen, a daughter of Eubert and Elsie Jurgen. Their union has been without issue. Politically, Mr. Schultz is an independent voter. He has served as school director. Fraternally, he belongs to the Fraternal Order of Eagles at Le Mars. He is a member of the German Lutheran church.

Mrs. Schultz was born in Hanover, Germany, in which place her parents were also born. There they grew up and were married. The father, who was a great horseman, died in his native land. His only daughter, Kate, came to America when young, locating in Illinois, where she met and married Mr. Schultz. Her mother came to the United States, where she spent her last years, dying in Le Mars in 1909.

NATHAN B. BRYANT.

Four score years is a long time to live, and one can accomplish much and do a great amount of good in that period; or, on the other hand, one can idle the time away and spend his days in a manner that is harmful to himself and to those with whom he comes in contact. Human life is at once a serious and a powerful thing. It is often said to be what we make it. Be that as it may, Nathan B. Bryant, a venerable pioneer farmer, now living in retirement in Le Mars, has lived to good purpose and now in the December of his years he can look backward with no regrets for idleness or evil ways.

Nathan P. Bryant was born in Butler county, Ohio, June 16, 1835, and is therefore now in his eighty-second year, but is still hale and hearty, being remarkably well preserved, as a result, no doubt, of right living and right thinking. He is a son of Lewis and Susan (White) Bryant, the former a native of New Jersey and the latter of Nantucket Island. Lewis Bryant was the son of Nathaniel and Elizabeth Bryant of New York, who drove

an ox-team from that state to Cincinnati, Ohio, in early pioneer times, the long journey being fraught with no little danger, especially from Indiana. They built the first brick house on the site of the present great city. Nathaniel Bryant was a brick mason by trade, but later devoted his life to farming. His death occurred in Butler county, Ohio. All of his eight children grew to maturity. Lewis Bryant, mentioned above, grew up in a pioneer environment and he had little chance to obtain an education. He remained on the home farm in Butler county, Ohio, until 1835, when he went to Barron county, Michigan, and secured wild land, which he cleared and on which he made a home, being thus one of the pioneer settlers of that state. He continued to farm there until 1876, when his wife died, after which he went to live with his children at Dallas, Texas. He made sashes and blinds for windows during his spare time while engaged in farming. Politically, he was a Whig and later a Republican after that party was organized. He belonged to the Presbyterian church. His family consisted of the following children: Ann, the eldest; Hattie, who settled in Dallas, Texas; Charles, next in order of birth; David, who lives in Chicago, and Nathan B., the subject of this sketch.

Nathan B. Bryant grew up on the home farm in Michigan, being an infant when his parents removed there from Ohio. He received a meager education, attending the early-day rural schools until he was twelve years old; but he has been a wide reader and is well informed on varied topics. In 1848 he went to work in a printing office at Niles, Michigan, and continued there until 1860, when he abandoned the "art preservative" and turned his attention to farming. He was married in 1865, to Susan Currier, of Rockingham county, New Hampshire. Her death occurred in 1897. She was a member of the Congregational church. Four children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Bryant, namely: Marion B., who lives with his father in Le Mars; Frank, who is a grain buyer in Canada, where he makes his home, is married and has one child, Carl; Lewis, who is farming in Alberta, Canada, is married and has four children, and Julia, who married Otis Swift, a farmer of Faulk county, South Dakota, and has two children.

In the spring of 1865 Mr. Bryant moved to Buchanan county, Iowa, where he secured a farm, which he operated along general lines for a period of fourteen years; then removed to Benton county, where he continued farming for eight years. His next move was to Faulk county, South Dakota, but he only spent one year there, coming on to Plymouth county and purchasing a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Marion township, where

he engaged in general farming with his usual success until 1903, when he sold out and moved to Le Mars, where he owns a nice home and has since lived retired.

Mr. Bryant is a Republican and has served on the city council for three years. He is a member of the Elks Club and of the Congregational church. He was instrumental in bringing the first chautauqua to Le Mars. He is deeply interested in this line of entertainment and has not missed attending a single chautauqua since the first one to be given in Le Mars.

EUGENE EILENBECKER.

Another native of the great German empire who has come to Plymouth county and made good as a result of his industry and indomitable courage, although often facing discouraging obstacles, is Eugene Eilenbecker, now living in retirement in Le Mars, where he is spending his declining years in ease as a result of his earlier years of activity along legitimate lines. He was born in Luxemburg, May 29, 1850, and is a son of John P. and Mary (Koch) Eilenbecker, both natives of Luxemburg, where they grew up, married and established their home; in fact, spent all their lives there engaged in farming, the father dying at the age of seventy-eight. The mother died in early life, when twenty-eight years old. The father married a second time, his last wife being Mrs. Elizabeth (Koch) Mathinger, a widow, and the sister of his first wife. Four children were born to his first union, namely: J. P., who is living in Luxemburg; Mary, deceased; Josephine, who lives in Luxemburg, and Eugene, the subject of this sketch.

Eugene Eilenbecker spent his boyhood in his native land, where he received a limited schooling. He left home at the age of eleven years, traveling considerably over Europe, working in hotels at different places until he was twenty-one years old, when he returned home. He came to America in 1873, proceeding on out to Iowa, where he bought two hundred acres of land in Marion township, Plymouth county, which he improved and farmed for a period of ten years. He then visited his old home in Luxemburg four months, after which he returned to Iowa, locating in Le Mars, where he engaged in the saloon business eight years, then went into the wholesale liquor business, which he continued until in April, 1913, when he sold out, after which he made another trip to the old country. He returned to Plymouth county and is now living in retirement in Le Mars, where he owns

a fine modern home. When he first came to Le Mars he was without capital and spent his first night here in the old Illinois Central depot. He has lived to see the county developed from practically a wilderness. He shot deer on the present site of the village of Remsen. He built his present home in 1896. It is one of the most attractive in the county. He owns land near Sioux Falls, South Dakota and in other sections of that state.

Mr. Eilenbecker has been twice married; first, in 1872, to Elizabeth Schroeder, a native of Luxemburg, a daughter of John Schroeder, who spent his life in Luxemburg. He had four children, namely: Nicholas, who lived at Oyens, Iowa, is deceased; J. P., who died in Ionia, Minnesota; Mrs. Annie Stines, who lives in Minnesota, and Elizabeth, who married the subject of this sketch. Her death occurred in November, 1912, leaving one child, John T., who married Mary Kleitch, is a bookkeeper and lives in Le Mars. In January, 1913, Eugene Eilenbecker married Margaret Brouch, who was born near St. Cloud, Minnesota, a daughter of Peter Brouch, who lived in Plymouth county, Iowa, many years. He belongs to the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and is a member of St. Joseph's Catholic church.

WILLIAM Z. TROW.

It must be true that an honest, faithful, capable life, considered even in its temporal relations, is not lived in vain; that its influence is not as transient and evanescent as mere physical vitality, but that the progress of mankind, in all that is virtuous and ennobling, is accelerated by it; that although the life of one man may be a small factor in the aggregate lives of the race, yet if well spent, its after influence is perceptible and continues to endure for the good of mankind. One such was that of the late William Z. Trow, a veteran of the Civil War and for many years a farmer in Plymouth county, who spent his last days on a ranch in Colorado.

William Z. Trow was born in England, on April 30, 1840, and was a son of James and Martha (Griffith) Trow, also natives of England, where they grew up, married and made their home until the year 1846, when they emigrated with their family to America, the mother dying while making the voyage across the Atlantic. The father settled on a farm in Green county, Wisconsin. Three children were born to James and Martha Trow, John D., Sarah, and William Z. James Trow married for his second wife Caroline Pryce, a native of Wales. Her death occurred in Stanton, Nebraska.

To this second union six children were born, two of whom died in infancy, the survivors being as follow: Julia, who lives in Nebraska; Albert, who lives in Idaho; Charles, who is a resident of Nebraska, and Lizzie, who makes her home in Boulder, Colorado.

William Z. Trow was six years old when his father brought him from England to Wisconsin, where he grew up on the home farm, and attended the public schools. He remained at home until he was twenty-one years old, when, in 1861, not long after the breaking out of the Civil War, he enlisted in Company D, First Wisconsin Heavy Artillery. He was sent to the South and assisted in defending various forts along the coast of the Gulf of Mexico. Although much of his time was spent on guard duty, Mr. Trow saw considerable service, remaining at the front for over three years, and was honorably discharged at Washington, D. C. After the war he returned to Wisconsin, locating at Albany, where he remained until 1879, when he came to Iowa, locating eighteen miles south of Le Mars, in Elkhorn township, Plymouth county, owning there one hundred and sixty acres on which he carried on general farming and stock raising until 1899, when he removed to Le Mars, bought a comfortable home on Fifth street and lived there until 1907, when he moved to Kit Carson county, Colorado, where he took up a homestead, which he improved and on which he resided until his death in 1910, at the age of seventy years. He was buried at Le Mars. Politically, he was a Republican, and he belonged to the Methodist Episcopal church.

On March 30, 1873, William Z. Trow was married to Lucinda Lane, who was born in Green county, Wisconsin, where she grew up and attended school. She is a daughter of David and Amy (Hilton) Lane, natives of the vicinity of Emden, Maine, in which state David Lane's death occurred, after which his widow removed to Green county, Wisconsin, where she spent the rest of her life. Mrs. Trow was the only child by that union. Mrs. Amy Lane married, secondly, John B. Smith, of Green county, Wisconsin, and three children were born to that union, namely: Moses W., who lives in North Dakota; Marcia, who lives in Montana, and Grace, who resides in Montana.

Four children, one of whom died in infancy, were born to William Z. Trow and wife, namely: William R., Leonard W. and May. William R. Trow, who died in February, 1915, at the age of forty-one years, was a farmer in Cedar county, Nebraska, and one of the most prominent men in that section of the state. He was a trustee of the United Brethren College at York, Nebraska; was president of the telephone company at Laurel,

Nebraska, and a trustee of the United Brethren church at Logan, that state. He was a prominent Mason, having attained a high degree in that fraternity, and was also a member of the Woodmen of the World, in which order he was a commander; in fact, held one of the highest offices in that body. He was very active in the United Brethren church and a teacher in the Sunday school. He was a well-informed man on current topics, broad in his views, and voted the Progressive ticket. He married Stella Perron. Leonard W. Trow lives near Alpena, South Dakota, where he is engaged in farming. He married Elva Perron, and has four children, Amy, Leslie, Sylvia and Verna. May Trow married Sumner B. Knox, who is a city mail carrier in Le Mars. They make their home with Mrs. Trow. The above-named children were educated in the common schools, and William R. attended the Western Union College at Le Mars. May was graduated from the Le Mars high school and was also graduated in music from the Western Union College.

Mrs. Trow owns one hundred and sixty acres of land in Cedar county, Nebraska; the homestead in Kit Carson county, Colorado, and her dwelling in Le Mars. She is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, also of the church societies of that denomination, and is active in church work. She is also a member of the Woman's Relief Corps, an auxiliary of the Grand Army of the Republic.

THE RT. REV. MGR. F. X. FEUERSTEIN.

The Rt. Rev. Mgr. F. X. Feuerstein, pastor of St. Joseph's German Catholic church at Le Mars, is a native of Germany, but has been a resident of the United States since he was twenty-five years of age. He was born in the kingdom of Wurtemberg, the third state of the German Empire, on February 22, 1850, son of George and Josephine (Lemmler) Feuerstein.

Reared in his native country, F. X. Feuerstein received an excellent education and early directed his studies with a view to the attainment of holy orders and, after absorbing the college course he visited the universities of Tubingen and Wurtzburg and then decided to pursue his studies in this country. With this end in view he came to the United States in 1875 and for some time was a student in the Catholic Seminary of St. Francis at Milwaukee. He then pursued his studies further at Montreal, Canada, and in 1878, at Dubuque, Iowa, was ordained to the priesthood by the Most Reverend Archbishop Hennessy, his first mass being read at St. Joseph's



RT. REV. MGR. F. X. FEUERSTEIN

church at Mt. Sterling, Illinois. Monsinger Feuerstein's admirable educational qualifications recommended him for teaching service and shortly after his ordination he was given the professorship of philosophy in St. Joseph's College, at Dubuque, a position he occupied for about seven years, at the end of which time he was given charge of the Catholic parish of St. Mary's, at Cascade, this state, where he built a new church and school, his pastorate being successful there for fifteen years. Monsignor Feuerstein then returned to Dubuque and there formed a new parish, the rapid growth of the city at that time amply warranting such a course. He procured ample property for a new parish, building the school and house of the Holy Ghost parish, and for eight years continued there as the pastor of the church of the Holy Ghost. At the end of that useful term of service Monsignor Feuerstein was transferred, in 1901, to Le Mars and placed in charge of St. Joseph's parish, of which he ever since has been pastor and in which connection he has performed an admirable service in behalf of the parish. During his pastorate Monsignor Feuerstein has remodeled the church, has erected the excellent parish school and has built the parish house; in other ways also adding to the material welfare of the parish, at the same time keeping the spiritual activities of the same up to a high standard of usefulness, his parishioners joining with him whole-heartedly in all movements designed to promote the material and spiritual welfare of the parish.

CHARLES C. PIKE.

Charles C. Pike, one of Plymouth county's well-known and progressive farmers and stockmen and proprietor of a fine farm in Sioux township, was born on a farm in Page county, this state, and has lived in Iowa all his life, a resident of this county since 1876, the year in which his parents came to Plymouth county and established a pioneer home in Preston township, about fifteen miles northwest of Le Mars. He was born on December 13, 1869, son of Joseph W. and Lacey (North) Pike, natives of Ohio and Pennsylvania, respectively, who later became pioneers of this county, where Mrs. Pike died in 1911 and where Mr. Pike is still living, now retired from the active labors of the farm. In a biographical sketch relating to John N. Pike, elder brother of the subject of this sketch, presented elsewhere in this volume, there is set out at some length the history of the Pike family in this section, together with the genealogy of the family, and to that narra-

tive the attention of the reader is respectfully invited for further information in this connection.

Charles C. Pike was sixteen years old when his parents moved over here from Page county and he grew to manhood on the home farm in Preston township, receiving his schooling in the district schools of that neighborhood. Early he began farming on his own account, beginning on an "eighty" in Preston township that his father gave him and which he presently traded for a quarter section of practically unimproved land in Sioux township, where he ever since has made his home. There were but twenty acres of that land broken when Mr. Pike took possession and upon him devolved the task of breaking the remainder and bringing the place under cultivation. The first set of buildings he erected on the place were destroyed by the memorable cyclone during the nineties and the set of buildings erected to take the place of those were destroyed by fire in 1908, after which Mr. Pike erected his present house and farm buildings on a site somewhat removed from the former ill-fated site of his home, and he and his family are now very pleasantly and very comfortably situated. In addition to his general farming Mr. Pike has given considerable attention to the raising of high-grade live stock and has done very well. He is a breeder of Hereford cattle and Duroc-Jersey hogs and also keeps from seventy-five to eighty head of sheep. In his political views Mr. Pike is "independent" of party, but nevertheless has given considerable of his time and attention to local civic affairs and has served the public in the capacity of treasurer of this home township and as director of his local school district. He is affiliated with the Modern Woodmen of America and takes a warm interest in the affairs of that organization.

On January 1, 1884, Charles C. Pike was united in marriage to Florence May Carlisle, who was born in Kansas, daughter of William D. Carlisle and wife, who later became residents of Plymouth county, where their last days were spent, and to this union three children have been born, Roland, who completed his schooling in the high school at Sioux City and is now a well-known horse dealer; Gertrude, who is a teacher in the schools of her home township, and Claudius, a student at Morningside College at Sioux City. The Pikes are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and take a warm interest in the various beneficences of the same, as well as in the general social activities of the community in which they live. Mr. Pike is a member of the board of trustees of the local church and has ever been helpful in promoting all good causes in his neighborhood.

MICHAEL HUEBSCH.

In examining the records of self-made men, it will invariably be found that indefatigable industry has constituted the basis of their success. True, there are other interests which enter into and conserve the advancement of personal interests—such as perseverance, discrimination and mastering of expedients; but the foundation of all achievement is earnest, persistent labor. Realizing this at the outset of his career, Michael Huebsch, a retired farmer of Le Mars, ordered his life accordingly, and met with success.

Michael Huebsch was born in Wurtemberg, Germany, June 9, 1850, a son of Jacob and Marie Huebsch, both natives of Germany, the latter of whom died in 1853. The father was a tanner by trade and also followed farming. He came to America in 1866, locating at Hartford, Wisconsin, where he lived with his daughter, Rosanna. She was one of seven children, only three of whom are now living, the other two, Michael and Casper, both making their home in Le Mars.

Michael Huebsch spent his boyhood in his native Wurtemberg, where he attended school, and before coming to America in 1866 he worked two years in a grist-mill. He accompanied the rest of the family to the New World, making a quick voyage for that period—thirteen days. He lived in Hartford, Wisconsin, until 1870; then came to Iowa and worked for John Snider, near Hinton, in this county, for two years, then one year for Doctor Hammersmith. In 1873 he took up a homestead in section 28 of Stanton township, which he improved, his place consisting of eighty acres; later buying seventy-six acres of railroad land. There he engaged successfully in general farming until 1905, when he retired from active life and moved to Le Mars. He operated a threshing-machine for nine years and a corn-sheller for fifteen years, doing a good business with both. He followed these vocations during the grasshopper years, which were very discouraging for the farmers. Although starting with nothing after coming to this country, he persevered until a large measure of success attended his efforts. After taking up his residence in Iowa he worked at many odd jobs, and for some time sawed cordwood for the court house at Melbourne, the original county seat. He is a stockholder and director in the Neptune Creamery Association. On January 23, 1873, Michael Huebsch was married to Magdalena Sterman, a daughter of Godfried Sterman and wife, and to this union the following children have been born: Mary, who married W. G. Dobbert and has two children, Esther and Alfred; Anna, who married William Uthe and

has three children, Roy, Paul and Dwight; Minnie, who married G. G. Koenig and has three children, Verna, Lucile and Evelyn; Josephine, who married the Rev. Henry Schmidt and has three children, Mildred, Eva and Eugene, and Lillie, who married Christ Koenig and has three children, Caroline, Kenneth, and Helen.

Mr. Huebsch is an independent voter; however, he supports the Republican ticket nationally. He has served as trustee and school director. He belongs to the German Methodist Episcopal church, of which he formerly was a trustee, also a steward.

W. H. MASON.

Whenever an attempt is made to write the history of a successful enterprise or the worthy career of any man, it has been found that ability, backed by energy and push, has been the basis of it all; and this fact cannot fail to impress itself upon the writer of history proper, or that branch of history which consists of biographies of those who have achieved sufficient success to make a record of their lives of interest to the public, as in the case of W. H. Mason, merchant, of Kingsley, this county.

W. H. Mason was born in this county on April 27, 1873, a son of Hugh and Susan (Trow) Mason. The father was born in Wales, August 17, 1846, and is the only member of his family now living. He was adopted by an uncle and aunt, his parents dying in early life, and was brought to America when eleven years old, his kinsfolk locating at Albany, Wisconsin, where he lived on a farm about eight years, later living on a farm in Rock county, that state, many years. He was married in June, 1874, to Susan Trow, who was born in Green county, Wisconsin, August 12, 1848, and to this union five children have been born, W. H., John, Anna, Pearl, and Herman. Hugh Mason was one of the early settlers in Plymouth county, where he farmed a number of years; then went back to Wisconsin for awhile, but returned to Plymouth county, locating at Kingsley. He is a shoemaker by trade. He is in failing health and has lived retired for many years.

W. H. Mason was educated in the high school and later took a business course at Sioux City. After leaving school he engaged in farming for a short time, then began clerking in a clothing store in Kingsley. He was married in 1903 to Alberta Eggleston, and they have three children, Susan, Charles, and Donald. Mrs. Mason was born in Clinton county, Iowa, and

was reared and educated there, a daughter of Charles Eggleston, a farmer of Clinton county.

Mr. Mason entered the mercantile business for himself in 1899, buying out a clothing store in Kingsley. He has been quite successful and has built up a large and growing trade with the town and surrounding country. He owns his store building and carries a large and well-selected stock of goods at all seasons, his stock invoicing about eighteen thousand dollars. He also owns two hundred acres of valuable and well-improved land in Woodbury county, Iowa, and eight hundred acres in Douglas and Spink counties, South Dakota.

Mr. Mason is a Republican, but has never aspired to public office. He belongs to the Masonic order, in which he has attained to the fourteenth degree. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

MICHAEL KENNEDY.

One of the well-known and prominent retired farmers of Remsen, this county, is Michael Kennedy, who was born on September 9, 1855, in Clinton county, Iowa, the son of John and Honora (Collins) Kennedy, who were born in Ireland, he in Kings county and she in Limerick county. They received their education in the land of their nativity, and there grew to manhood and womanhood and later came to America. On his arrival in the United States, John Kennedy located in the state of New York; later lived in Michigan and still later was married in Wisconsin. After his marriage John Kennedy worked in the pineries for a number of years, and then came to Iowa and located in Clinton county, where he purchased a farm, five miles west of Lyons. This farm he developed and improved and here he engaged in general farming for some years. He later removed to Nebraska for a time, but returned to Clinton, Iowa, where he died on November 5, 1913. His wife had died many years prior. They were the parents of five children, those besides the subject of this sketch being, Margaret and John, who live in Knox county, Nebraska; Julia, now deceased, and one who died in infancy. Mr. Kennedy was a Democrat and took much interest in local affairs. He and his family were devout members of the Catholic church and were prominent in the social and religious life of their community.

Michael Kennedy received his schooling in the public schools of Clinton county and grew to manhood on the home farm, where as a lad and young man he assisted his father with the work of clearing and developing the place, and there he remained until he was twenty-three years of age. At that time he moved thirty miles west of the home place, in Clinton county, where he engaged in farming until 1883, when he came to Plymouth county and purchased a farm in Remsen township, the place at that time being for the most part, undeveloped and without improvements. In time he developed his farm, erected good and substantial buildings and became prosperous in general farming and stock raising.

Michael Kennedy has been three times married. His first wife was Helen Hughes, of Clinton county, and the daughter of Richard and Esther Hughes, both natives of Ireland and early settlers of the county, where they died some years ago. They were the parents of ten children, eight of whom are still living. Those living in Plymouth county are P. H., Hughes, of Remsen township, and Ann, wife of W. A. Kenney, of Henry township. To Michael and Helen Kennedy two children were born, Mary Ann, who is the wife of James Arens, and John P., who is a traveling salesman, of Cedar Rapids. He married Ella Curren and they are the parents of four children, Regis, Catherine, Mary Margaret, and Ilene. After the death of Helen Kennedy, Michael Kennedy married Mrs. Josie (O'Mara) McLaughlin, of Clinton county, widow of John McLaughlin, who had two children, Herbert and Mary, and after her death in 1906 he was united in marriage to Ellen Torpey, also of Clinton county.

Michael Kennedy, continued to live on his farm in Remsen township until 1904, devoting his time to his farm and his stock. In that year he retired from the activities of the farm and moved to Le Mars, where he lived for three years. He later moved to Remsen and there he built a beautiful new house, into which he moved on the first day of August, 1916. There he lives a retired life, enjoying some of the rewards of his active life. He still owns the old home place, which he leases. As a farmer and a breeder of high-class live stock, he has been quite successful, and is recognized as one of the substantial and influential men of the township. He is identified with the Democratic party and has long been active in local affairs. He is progressive in his views and has had much to do with the civic and social life of the community. He is a firm believer in substantial public improvements and has used his influence in the promotion of all worthy causes that would have a tendency to promote the best interests of the district. Because

of his excellent judgment and broad experience he is often consulted in matters relating to the affairs of both the township and the county. Mr. Kennedy and his family are active members of St. Mary's Catholic church and are active in the social and the religious life of the community.

CARL STAAB.

Carl Staab, a well-known and successful resident of Remsen, and now living a retired life, was born in Berne, Germany, on August 2, 1856, the son of John Adam and Eve (Heilman) Staab, also natives of Germany, who died there some years ago. As a young man John Adam Staab engaged in farming and later conducted a store in connection with his farm work. He and his wife were devout members of the Catholic church and were prominent in the social and the religious life of their community. They were the parents of five children, Paul, Louis, Peter, Aloysius and Carl.

Carl Staab received his education in the public schools of his native land and there grew to manhood. He assisted his father on the farm and in the store until he came to America in 1885. On his arrival in the United States he proceeded to Illinois, where he remained for a short time, after which he came to Iowa and located in Meadow township, this county, where he presently purchased one hundred and fifty-seven acres, paying for the same twenty-five dollars an acre. The place was but partly improved, and he erected all the present substantial buildings, planted the grove and made other valuable improvements. There he engaged in general farming and stock raising in which he was quite successful, and gradually added to his farm until he became the owner of five hundred and fifty-seven acres, all of which is under a high state of cultivation and well improved. Mr. Staab remained on the farm until 1916, when he retired from the activities of the farm life and moved to Remsen.

On February 22, 1882, Carl Staab was united in marriage, in Germany, to Gertrude Greenewald, daughter of John Greenewald and wife, and to this union the following children have been born; Mary, Peter, Josephine, Lucy, Joseph, Frank and Rose. Mary Staab married August Bolster and died on September 30, 1909, leaving two children, Lucy and Mary. Peter Staab married Mary Groh. Lucy Staab married Michael Hansen. Joseph Staab married Regina Sudtelgte and has a son, Irwin. Frank Staab married Minnie Strohbeen. The Staabs are active members of the Catholic church

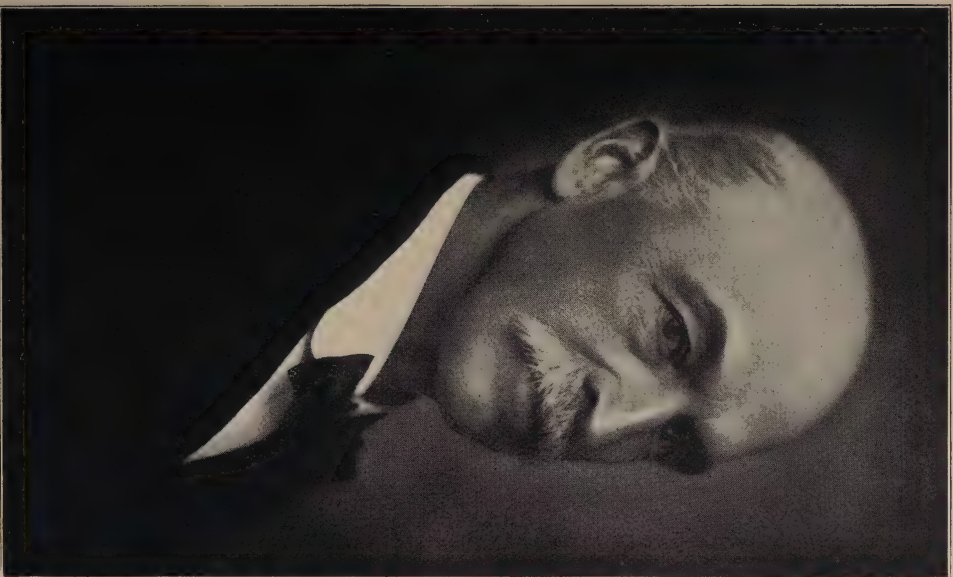
at Remsen and take much interest in church work. Mr. Staab was a member of the building committee when the church was built some years ago and is a member of the Roman Catholic Mutual Protective Society. He has always taken an active interest in local affairs, was township trustee for several years and has been treasurer of the Farmers Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Remsen. He has always exerted his best efforts in the promotion of all enterprises tending to promote the best interests of the township and the county.

WILLIAM T. KISTLE.

William T. Kistle, a well-known and well-to-do retired farmer of Plymouth county, now living at Le Mars, is a native of Illinois, born on a farm in Jo Daviess county, that state, December 22, 1859, son of Josiah and Phillip (Ford) Kistle, both natives of England, the former born in 1817 and the latter in 1834, whose last days were spent in Illinois.

Josiah Kistle came to the United States when a young man and located near Galena, Illinois. Shortly after the announcement of the discovery of gold in California in 1849 he joined a party of "argonauts" en route for the gold fields and drove through with an ox-team. He was quite successful in his quest for gold and came back, by way of the Isthmus, with a sufficient sum of money to set himself up quite handsomely as a farmer in Jo Daviess county, Illinois, where he spent the remainder of his life, a substantial farmer and an influential citizen. He and his wife were the parents of five children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the third in order of birth, the others being as follow: Josiah Charles, of Shell Lake, Wisconsin; John Henry, also of Shell Lake; Mrs. Estella March, of Tacoma, Washington, and Mrs. Adelle March, of Spokane, Washington.

Reared on the home farm in Illinois, William T. Kistle received his schooling in the schools of Jo Daviess county and in his early manhood took up farming on his own account, he and his brother, Charles, engaging in agricultural pursuits in Illinois and southern Wisconsin in partnership, the two being thus engaged there for five years, at the end of which time they came to Iowa, locating in Plymouth county, where, in 1881, they bought the old Professor Wernli place of four hundred acres in the vicinity of Le Mars, paying for the same twenty dollars an acre. Presently they bought an adjoining "eighty" and were engaged in farming there in partnership until 1884, in which year both were married, after which they divided



MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM T. KISTLE.

their holdings and each started farming on his own account. William T. Kistle remained thus engaged for two years, at the end of which time, in 1886, he moved to Le Mars and for three years was there engaged in the agricultural-implement business, after which he returned to the farm and continued farming until 1900, when he retired from the farm and moved back to Le Mars, where he ever since has made his home. In the meantime Mr. Kistle had increased his land holdings to two hundred and eighty acres, which farm he sold in July, 1911, and in the fall of 1913 bought another tract of one hundred and fifty-seven acres adjoining the city of Le Mars, which he still owns. Mr. Kistle is a Republican and for some time served as assessor of Washington township and also for nine years served as treasurer of his school district. He and his wife are members of the Presbyterian church and their children were reared in that faith.

It was in December, 1884, that William T. Kistle was united in marriage to Elizabeth M. Wallace, a daughter of Alexander Wallace and wife, and to this union three children survive, namely: Pearl, who married Harry Nebergal and has one child, a daughter, Margaret; Jessie, who married Dr. E. E. Farnsworth and has one child, a son, William Kistle, and Percival, who married Wanda Warner and has one child, a daughter, Marjorie.

PETER ARENS.

Peter Arens, one of the well-known and prominent retired farmers of Remsen and at present chairman of the board of supervisors, was born in Luxemburg on March 26, 1850, the son of Nicholas and Anna Arens, who were also born in Luxemburg and were there married. As a young man, Nicholas Arens learned the shoemaker trade at which he worked, during his residence in the Fatherland, until 1852, when he and his wife decided to come to America, where they might obtain a home for themselves and their family. On their arrival in the United States they came direct to Iowa and Nicholas Arens obtained a farm in Jackson county, which he developed and improved, and there he engaged in general farming and stock raising until the time of his death, in 1879. His widow survived for many years and died at the home of one of her daughters in 1904. Nicholas Arens and wife were the parents of the following children: John, Frank, Theodore, Mary Anna, Peter, Charles, John, J. P., Matthew, Mary and six who are deceased. J. P. Arens is a well-known resident of Remsen town-

ship. John Arens resides in Sioux county. Mary Anna is the wife of Mr. Schroeder. Mary is a nun, under the name of Sister Melchizedek. Charles lives at Washington Springs, South Dakota, and Matthew lives at White Lake, South Dakota. Mr. and Mrs. Arens were active members of the Catholic church and were prominent in the social and the religious life of the community. Mr. Arens took much interest in the civic life of the township and the county and had much to do with the growth and the development of the community in which he lived.

Peter Arens received his education in the public schools of Jackson county, having been but a child when his parents settled there in 1852, and there he grew to manhood on the home farm, assisting his father with the farm work. After his marriage in March, 1876, he came to Plymouth county and located in section 26 of Fredonia township, where he at first rented eighty acres of land and later purchased eighty acres of land in section 28, to which he later added until he became the owner of two hundred acres in the township. This he developed and improved and here he engaged in general farming and stock raising until 1888, when he sold the place and purchased two hundred acres in section 6 of Remsen township.

As noted above, it was in March, 1876, that Peter Arens was united in marriage to Margaret Homan, daughter of John P. Homan, and to this union the following children have been born: John, John P., Nick J., Joe, Mary and Cecelia. John Arens married Rose Striff and has six children, Viola, Raymond, Clarence, Josie, John and Bernice. John P. Arens married Mollie Kennedy and has four children, Valeria, Oswald, Phillis and Clara. Nick J. Arens married Maggie Bower and has five children, Clarence, Evelyn, Catherine, Mildred and Maggie. Joe Arens married Margaret Bohnakemp. Mary Arens married Nick Hatz and has one child, a daughter, Margaret, and Cecelia Arens married Nick Gengler, and is the mother of three children, Margaret, Milton and Arnold. Mrs. Margaret Arens, the mother of these children, died on April 4, 1905, and in 1912 Peter Arens was united in marriage to Mrs. Mary (Gallis) Wagner, daughter of John Gallis and wife.

Peter Arens has always taken an active interest in the civic life of the community in which he has lived. He was formerly township trustee of Fredonia township, has served as school director and road boss of Remsen township, has been a member of the board of supervisors of the township since November 12, 1909, and has been chairman of the board for the past two terms. In 1895 the Remsen creamery was built on his farm. He was one of the organizers of the company and managed the plant until it was dis-

continued. For some years Mr. Arens has been superintendent of the Plymouth county poor farm and he has given general satisfaction in his administration of the affairs of the same.

Peter Arens and family are active members of St. Mary's Catholic church of Remsen and have always taken much interest in church work. Mr. Arens was one of the members of the building committee that built the church and is an active member of the Catholic Mutual Benefit Association. He was also one of the organizers of the Farmers Fire Insurance Company of Remsen and served as president of the company for some years.

CHARLES LINCOLN BUTCHER.

Charles Lincoln Butcher, one of the best-known and most substantial farmers of Sioux township, this county, is a native of the state of Missouri, but has been a resident of Plymouth county for the past quarter of a century. He was born on a farm in Harrison county, Missouri, October 9, 1864, son of Jehu and Fidella (McClain) Butcher, natives of the state of Ohio, whose last days were spent in Missouri.

Jehu Butcher was born in Jackson county, Ohio, and there grew to manhood and married Fidella McClain, who also was born in that county. Not long before the outbreak of the Civil War he moved with his family to Harrison county, Missouri, and there established his home on a farm of one hundred and seventy-five acres, on which he spent the rest of his life. During the Civil War he served as a member of the Home Guards in Missouri, devoted to the cause of the Union. He was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, as was his wife, and their children were reared in the faith of that church. There were eight of these children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the fifth in order of birth, the others being as follow: Clara, who married Robert McNamee and lives at Mountain Grove, Missouri; John, a farmer, who died in Missouri; Jane, who is married and continues to live in Missouri; Amanda, who married Alexander Alder and lives at Berwell, Nebraska; Andrew, who died in infancy; Wesley, a farmer, who died at his home in Mound City, Missouri, in January, 1915, and Mary Letta, who married William Simons and lives at White Owl, South Dakota. The mother of these children died about the year 1871 and Jehu Butcher married, secondly, Mrs. Elizabeth Miller, who died without issue; whereupon he married Mrs. Mary Anna Bennett, to which

union there was born one child, a daughter, Lulu, who married John Noble and lives in Missouri. Jehu Butcher died in 1879.

Reared on the home farm in Harrison county, Missouri, Charles L. Butcher obtained his schooling in the local schools of that neighborhood and remained at home until he was sixteen years of age, when he started out for himself, homesteading a tract of land in Cherry county, Nebraska, which he proved up and on which he remained for seven years, or until 1892, the year after his marriage, when he came to Iowa and settled on the farm of Mrs. Sophia J. Woodward, his wife's aunt, in Sioux township, this county, where he established his home and where he ever since has resided. In 1899 he sold his Nebraska land and bought a place of eighty acres in section 19 of Sioux township, adjoining Mrs. Woodward's farm, and has since been farming both places. Upon the death of Mrs. Woodward in 1911, her niece, Mrs. Butcher, inherited the Woodward acres and the Butchers are thus now the owners of a fine place of four hundred and forty acres in one body. On this tract Mr. Butcher has made all the present substantial improvements and for years has been engaged there in stock raising, in addition to his general farming, and has done very well. His specialty in the live-stock line is pure-bred Hereford cattle and Chester White hogs, keeping a herd of from fifty to one hundred of the former and from seventy-five to one hundred head of the latter. Mr. Butcher is a Republican, but has never been an aspirant for public office. Both he and his wife are members of the Church of Christ (Scientist), affiliated with the mother church at Boston.

It was on May 3, 1891, in Cherry county, Nebraska, that Charles L. Butcher was united in marriage to Nellie Sophia Jenkins, who was born at Shabbona Grove, in Dekalb county, Illinois, daughter of Dr. Joseph M. and Jennie M. (McInroy) Jenkins, the former of whom, years later, became a pioneer of this county and here spent his last days. Dr. Joseph M. Jenkins was a native of the state of New York, born in Wayne county, February 16, 1838, son of Benjamin Jenkins and wife, the former of whom was a government surveyor. In 1846 Benjamin Jenkins and his family moved from New York to Kane county, Illinois, where Joseph M. Jenkins grew to manhood and for some years taught school, meanwhile studying medicine. In 1861, upon the outbreak of the Civil War, he enlisted for service in the Twenty-third Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and at one of the battles at Lexington, Missouri, was taken prisoner by the enemy. Upon being exchanged he continued his medical studies and in 1864 again

entered the service of the Union army as assistant surgeon of the One Hundred and Thirty-fourth and the One Hundred and Fiftieth Regiments, Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and remained thus detailed until on June 16, 1865, when he was placed in charge of the Port Hudson military hospital and there continued in service until his final discharge in July, 1866. It was while serving as an army surgeon that Doctor Jenkins, on January 22, 1865, in Dekalb county, Illinois, was united in marriage to Jennie M. McInroy, who also was born in the state of New York, October 2, 1842, and upon the completion of his military service he began the practice of his profession at Shabonna Grove, where his wife, the mother of Mrs. Butcher, died on July 3, 1870. Doctor Jenkins then came to Iowa and homesteaded a tract of land near Sibley, where he also engaged in practice, and where on September 16, 1872, he married Mrs. S. M. Darby. Some time later he returned to his old home in Illinois and practiced there until his library was destroyed by fire in 1880, after which he returned to Iowa and came on up into Plymouth county, where he had purchased two hundred and fifty-five acres in 1870, this land being situated on the river in Sioux township, and there established a new home, remaining there, with the exception of three years spent near Merriman, in Cherry county, Nebraska, the rest of his life, his death occurring on January 30, 1894. Doctor Jenkins was an active Mason from the days of his young manhood and an active member of the Grand Army of the Republic, in the affairs of both of which orders he took a warm interest. He was a Republican and during his residence in Cherry county, Nebraska, served as a member of the board of county commissioners.

To Charles L. and Nellie Sophia (Jenkins) Butcher six children have been born, namely: Jennie Fidella, born on January 14, 1892, who died on January 23, 1892; Carrie May, May 9, 1894, who is now engaged in a store at Westfield, this county; Minnie Sophia, December 5, 1897, a student in the Westfield high school; Benjamin Franklin, April 3, 1899, also a student in the high school; Charles Joseph, January 12, 1904, and Clifford Ernest, September 20, 1906.

Mrs. Sophia J. Woodward, for many years one of the best-known and most influential residents of Sioux township, a sister of Dr. Joseph M. Jenkins and an aunt of Mrs. Butcher, was born in Wayne county, New York, November 13, 1829, the only daughter in the family of nine children born to her parents. She accompanied her parents to Illinois in 1846 and was married there on December 27, 1860, to Phineas B. Woodward, who

died at Kaneville, Illinois, on March 4, 1875. Being without children of her own, when the wife of her brother, Doctor Jenkins, died, Mrs. Woodward took the orphaned daughter, Nellie, then but sixteen months of age and reared and educated her. Upon the latter's marriage to Mr. Butcher she continued to make her home with her aunt and this close companionship continued until the latter's death, a period of forty-two years, all told. In 1880 when Doctor Jenkins came to Plymouth county his sister, Mrs. Woodward, accompanied him and here she bought a tract of three hundred and sixty acres of land in Sioux township, the place now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Butcher, and there she made her home until 1888, when she went to Nebraska, where she lived for three years, at the end of which time she returned to her home in Plymouth county and there spent the rest of her life, her death occurring on March 29, 1911, she then being eighty-one years, four months and sixteen days of age. Mrs. Woodward was a woman of excellent education and much force of character and during her long residence in Plymouth county ever took a warm interest in the general affairs of the county, even taking an active part in political affairs, and for three or four years served as treasurer of Sioux township. For fifty-five years she was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and then became affiliated with the Church of Christ (Scientist) and died in that faith.

AUGUST NUEL.

Luxemburg has sent a large number of her enterprising citizens to Plymouth and adjoining counties and they have all found good homes here and have done much toward the general upbuilding of this section of Iowa. One of this worthy number is August Nuel, a retired hotel man of Le Mars, who was born in Luxemburg on September 5, 1851, a son of Nick and Susanna (Wagner) Nuel, the former of whom was born in Luxemburg, and the latter in Belgium. They spent their active lives on a farm in Luxemburg, his death occurring there at the age of eighty-two, while she died when fifty-four years old. They had nine children, namely: Nick, who is a carpenter in France; Dr. J. P. Nuel, who is an eye and ear specialist in Belgium and was for thirty years a professor in the college at Liege; Mary, who died in Luxemburg; August, the subject of this sketch; Michael, who is a locksmith and gunsmith in Paris, France; Catherine, who is a nurse in Luxemburg, her name

being Sister Euloge; Josephine, who is living in Paris; Susanna, who is the wife of J. P. Brucher, of Iowa City, this state, and Olivia, who died in France. The father of the subject of this sketch was married twice, one child, John, being born to his first union. He died in Luxemburg.

August Nuel received his education in Luxemburg and in Paris, and when seventeen years old began learning the cabinet-maker's trade, serving an apprenticeship of three years. He worked at his trade in France and Luxemburg until 1877, when he came to America. He worked in Chicago for several months, then went to Belleview, Jackson county, this state; he then spent one year in Lake City, Minnesota. He came to Le Mars in 1879, and here worked at his trade until 1883, when he moved to a claim near White Lake, South Dakota, and engaged in the furniture business, also farming there for seven years; from here he went to Chicago and worked at his trade until 1894; he then engaged in the saloon business until 1902, in which year he returned to Le Mars and bought the Grand Central Hotel, which he operated for nine years, at the end of which time he retired from active life. Mr. Nuel owns a half section of good land in Murray county, Minnesota. He built a modern home on Prospect street, Le Mars, some years ago where he still lives. He has been quite successful in a business way. He recently traded his hotel for land in Gregory county, South Dakota.

On June 14, 1881, August Nuel was married to Mary Wagner, who also was born in Luxemburg, a daughter of Charles and Mary Katherine (Arnsdorff) Wagner, both natives of Luxemburg, from which country they came to Iowa in an early day in the settlement of this part of the state and settled at Le Mars. They were the parents of five children, namely: John, deceased; Mary, the wife of Mr. Nuel; Peter, who is farming near White Lake, South Dakota; Katherine, who died in Le Mars in 1881, and Nick, who died in Chicago.

Seven children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Nuel, namely: Nick, who lives at home; Charles, who is employed in the Le Mars post-office, was married to Mary Embach, of Chicago, and has two children, Charles and Katherine; Mary, who is the wife of Louis Schafer, a farmer of Washington township, Plymouth county; Lena, who died in February, 1911, at the age of nineteen years; Susan, now Sister Augustella, of the Franciscan Order at Dubuque; Katherine, who married H. J. Ahlers, a farmer of Stanton township, Plymouth county, and August J., who is studying for the priesthood at Baltimore, Maryland. The mother of these children died on February 20, 1913.

JOHN P. ROLLING.

John P. Rolling, a well-known and well-to-do farmer of Marion township, this county, is a native son of Iowa and has lived in this state all his life, with the exception of brief periods of residence in the state of California and in South Dakota. He was born on a farm in Jackson county on April 20, 1869, son of John and Susan Rolling, who later became pioneers of Plymouth county, where their last days were spent.

John Rolling was born in Germany and was trained there to the carpenter's trade, at which he worked until he was twenty-five years of age, when he came to the United States. Landing in New York City, he remained there, working at his trade, for two years, at the end of which time he came to Iowa and located in Jackson county, where he presently married and where he worked at his trade until 1872, in which year he came to Plymouth county and bought a farm of two hundred acres in section 29 of Marion township, where he established his home and where he and his wife spent the remainder of their lives. Upon taking possession of his farm, for which he paid nine dollars an acre, John Rolling was confronted with the task of breaking the virgin soil and preparing the same for cultivation. He erected a small house which served as a dwelling until he later was able to build a more commodious and comfortable residence, planted a grove and in other ways started in to make a first-class farm of his place. During the years of the grasshopper visitation he suffered serious losses, as did all the pioneers of this part of the state, but he presently overcame those losses and it was not long until he began to see success attending his efforts, he presently becoming recognized as one of the most substantial and influential pioneer residents of that part of the county. Mrs. Rolling died on the home farm in 1891 and Mr. Rolling survived her for about seventeen years, his death occurring in 1908. They were the parents of four children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the last-born, the others being as follow: Nicholas, who is living at Perry, Oklahoma; Lena, who married Peter Zeit and is now deceased, and Jennie, who married Peter Reisch.

John P. Rolling was about three years old when his parents came to Plymouth county and he grew to manhood on the home farm in Marion township, receiving his schooling in the schools of that neighborhood and remained at home, a valued assistant to his father in the labors of developing and improving the place, until he was twenty-one years of age, when he took a prospecting trip to California, later locating in South Dakota,



JOHN P. ROLLING AND FAMILY

where he farmed for a couple of years, at the end of which time he returned to Plymouth county and rented a quarter of a section of land, which he worked for three years. After his marriage in 1895 he rented a half section of land and there made his home until 1904, when he returned to the old home place and managed the same until his father's death in 1908, after which he rented the place for a couple of years, at the end of which time he bought a two-hundred-acre farm in Marion township, the place on which he ever since has made his home and where he and his family are very pleasantly and comfortably situated. Since taking possession of his present farm Mr. Rolling has added to his holdings by the purchase of an adjoining "eighty" and is thus the owner of a fine place of two hundred and eighty acres, on which he has made improvements to the value of about five thousand dollars. Mr. Rolling also formerly was the owner of a quarter section of land northeast of Remsen, but he sold that place some time ago. In addition to his general farming he annually feeds about one hundred and fifty head of hogs and has done very well in his live-stock operations. Mr. Rolling is a Democrat, but has not been included in the office-seeking class.

It was in 1895 that John P. Rolling was united in marriage to Theresa Colling, daughter of J. P. and Catherine Colling, of this county, and to this union two sons have been born, Edward and Leo. The family are members of St. Kathryn's Catholic church at Oyens and take a proper interest in parish affairs, Mr. Rolling being a member of the Mutual Protective Society of the church.

WALLACE WINSLOW.

Among the successful agriculturalists of Plymouth county is Wallace Winslow, now living in retirement in Le Mars. He was always progressive in his ideas of husbandry and in connection with his sound judgment and foresight he had the proper industry and perseverance to make his chosen life work a success. Like many other industrious citizens of this section of the state, he came from the great Empire state in pioneer days, and he had the sagacity to see in this locality splendid opportunities for the tiller of the soil, and wisely decided to cast his lot in Plymouth county.

Wallace Winslow was born in Cortland county, New York, November 16, 1845, a son of Charles Nicholas Winslow and a grandson of Ira Winslow, who was a soldier in the War of 1812, and an early settler in Cortland

county, where he lived and died on a farm. He married Josephine Waterman, and the following children were born to them: William, Charles N., Abigail, Marion and Cynthia.

Charles N. Winslow grew up on the homestead in New York, on which he worked when a boy, and he received a limited education in the pioneer schools there. When a young man he went to Ohio where he resided seven years, then moved to McHenry county, Illinois, where he spent nine years. In 1871 he came to Plymouth county and took up a homestead in Elgin township, devoting the rest of his life to general farming. His death occurred at the home of his son Wallace in 1879. His wife died in Illinois in 1861. He was a Democrat, and he and his wife belonged to the Methodist Episcopal church. They were parents of the following children: Charles A., deceased; Thomas I., deceased; Wallace, the subject of this sketch; E. H., a carpenter by trade, who died in Spokane, Washington, in April, 1916; Frank, who died in Oregon in 1912; L. J., who lives in Spokane, Washington, and Mary, who is the wife of Charles Hodgshire, of Pendleton, Oregon.

Wallace Winslow grew up on the farm, where he worked when he became of proper age. He had little opportunity to obtain an education and left home in 1861, when fourteen years old, and engaged in farming in Illinois for three years. On February 9, 1865, in McHenry county, he enlisted in Company C, One Hundred and Fifty-third Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and was sent with the troops to Tennessee and Alabama, where he remained until the close of the war, and was honorably discharged at Memphis, Tennessee. Returning to McHenry county, Illinois, he resumed farming for three years, then came to Iowa, taking up a homestead in Fredonia township, Plymouth county, which he improved and one which he established a good home and successfully carried on general farming and stock raising.

In 1875 Wallace Winslow was married to Augusta Knowlton, a native of Vermont, from which state she came West when young. Her death occurred on September 1, 1890. To Mr. and Mrs. Winslow four children were born, namely: Clifford, who lives in Spokane, Washington, married Mary Hazel, and has three children, Hazel, Lawrence and Knowlton; Claude, who is engaged in farming in Clackamas county, Oregon, married Lena Huber and has three children, Helen, Donald and Mildred; Fred, who is unmarried, lives in Spokane, Washington, where he runs a billiard parlor; Josephine, who lives at home, has engaged in school teaching for many years and has been principal of the Clark state school for two years.

Mr. Winslow engaged in farming until 1883, when he moved to Le Mars, where he engaged in the meat business three years, then was elected county recorder, which position he held in a most acceptable manner for eight years; then served with equal credit as deputy county clerk for six years. He has been custodian of the Elks' Club for the past thirteen years. In 1878 he was elected a member of the board of supervisors, serving one term. He is a Democrat and has always taken an active interest in local public affairs. Mr. Winslow is a member of Mower Post, Grand Army of the Republic, has been a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks since 1900 and is a Royal Arch Mason and a member of the Order of the Eastern Star, his wife and daughter also belonging to the latter. The family attend the Methodist Episcopal church.

PHILIP BOEVER.

The history of Plymouth county reveals the handiwork of many a courageous character who wrought heroically against many adverse conditions. The county's smiling fields and splendid homes, her high-grade institutions, her happy, prospering people speak volumes concerning the grit, self-sacrifice and steadfastness of purpose of the pioneer element who reclaimed this locality from the wilderness; among whom was Philip Boever, now living in retirement in Le Mars after a long career as general farmer.

Philip Boever was born in Luxemburg on February 20, 1850, a son of Michael and Anna Marie (Wilmas) Boever, also natives of Luxemburg, where they grew up and were married and where the father followed the weaver's trade until his death. There the mother also spent her life. They had ten children, five of whom came to America, namely: Philip, the subject of this sketch; Paul, who lives in Remsen, this county; Peter, who lives in Aurora, Illinois; Margaret, deceased, and John, who lives in Granville, Iowa.

Philip Boever grew to manhood in Luxemburg, where he attended school. He came to America in 1869, locating at Aurora, Illinois, in the vicinity of which place he engaged in farming for six years, and while there he was united in marriage to Catherine Wengler, who was born at Aurora, July 1, 1857, a daughter of William and Catherine (Wermes) Wengler, both natives of Luxemburg, and early settlers in the vicinity of Aurora, Illinois, engaging in farming there. Mr. Wengler was also a stonemason

by trade. He and his wife both died there. They had six children, namely: Catherine, who married Mr. Boever; Margaret, who married Paul Boever, of Remsen; Frank, who lives at Remsen; Mat, who lives at Belgrade, Minnesota; John, who also lives at Belgrade, and Kate, who lives at Aurora, Illinois.

To Philip Boever and wife the following children have been born: Catherine, born on December 11, 1878, who lives at home; Martin M., August 16, 1880, who is unmarried and is engaged in farming near Alton, Iowa; Mary, July 31, 1883, who lives at home; Margaret, March 18, 1885, who died on May 17 of that year; Anna, May 12, 1886, who married Matthew Hebach and lives in Montana; John, May 4, 1888, who married Alma Gratz and is farming the old homestead in Plymouth county; Lena, August 18, 1890, who lives at home; Philip Jacob, August 5, 1893, who is farming near Merrill; Theresa, November 8, 1895, who is at home; and Margaret Cecelia, February 25, 1900, who died on March 28, 1901. These children were given excellent educational advantages, attending the public schools of Plymouth county. Theresa was graduated from the Le Mars high school in 1914, and Lena is now attending Western Union College at LeMars.

In 1878 Philip Boever located on eighty acres in Elgin township, Plymouth county, which he purchased. He turned the raw prairie sod, planted crops, made the necessary general improvements, and by hard work, close application and good management succeeded as a general farmer, increasing his holdings to two hundred and forty acres. He continued to operate his fine farm until 1910, when he retired and moved to Le Mars, where he owns a modern home. Mr. Boever is a Democrat, but he has never aspired to public office. He belongs to St. Joseph's German Catholic church.

WILLIAM CAREL.

It was forty years ago that William Carel took up his abode in Plymouth county, which he has helped develop and where he has seen wonderful changes take place, of which he talks interestingly, for the pioneer days were altogether different from those of the present; and we agree with him that they were in many respects better than those of these advanced times. It seems, at least, that people were then happier; they neither wanted nor needed so much; they were more helpful, neighborly and less selfish.

William Carel, who was for many years a soldier in the regular army

during the reconstruction days following the great war between the states, and later a general farmer in Plymouth county, is now living in retirement in Le Mars. He was born on December 7, 1848, in Plattville, Grant county, Wisconsin, and is a son of Peter and Elizabeth (Butler) Carel. The father was a native of Wicklow, Ireland, and the mother of Indiana, but she was reared at Galena, Illinois. Peter Carel spent his boyhood in the Emerald Isle, from which he emigrated to America when a young man, locating at Plattville, Wisconsin, where he followed mining. His death occurred in 1878, at the age of seventy years. His widow survived until 1906, dying at the age of eighty-two. They were parents of the following children: Mary, who is living in Minnesota; William, the subject of this sketch; James, who is also a retired farmer and lives at Le Mars; Ellen, deceased; Anna, who was fourth in order of birth, is unmarried and lives at Le Mars; Edward, a retired farmer, now living at Le Mars; Stephen, who died in Wisconsin when young, and John and Thomas, also deceased.

William Carel attended the common schools until he was ten years old, then began working out on a farm in Wisconsin. At the age of eighteen he enlisted, at Dubuque, Iowa, April 4, 1867, in Company L. Fiftieth United States Heavy Artillery, and was sent South to Covington, Kentucky, and Jacksonville, Florida, also to Ft. Jefferson, spending the winter of 1867-68 there. His services took him also to Louisiana and other Southern states, and he later spent eighteen months in Boston, at Ft. Warner, where he was honorably discharged, upon the expiration of his term of enlistment; after which he returned to Wisconsin, engaging in farming in Grant county three years for a Mr. Pemberthy; then farmed for himself until 1876, when he came to Iowa, locating in Lincoln township, Plymouth county, buying eighty acres for six dollars an acre, and began farming in true pioneer fashion. His land was wild, but he cleared and developed it into a good farm, making all the improvements on the same, including the erection of buildings. There he engaged in general farming until 1895, in which year he moved to Kingsley, where he resided until 1908; then moved back to his farm for two years. In 1901 he bought a residence on Washington street in Le Mars and in 1909 purchased his present home on Main street. Mr. Carel has been successful as a general farmer, through his own efforts, and is now the owner of four hundred and eighty acres in this county and one hundred and sixty acres in Noble county, Minnesota. He started with little capital and rode from his old home in Wisconsin to Plymouth county on horseback. That was about the time of the famous Northfield robbery. While farming

Mr. Carel was a breeder of Shorthorn cattle and Poland China hogs. He was also an extensive feeder and cattle buyer.

Mr. Carel was married in Grant county, Wisconsin, on May 6, 1886, to Elizabeth Toomey, a daughter of John and Elizabeth Toomey, who spent their lives on a farm in the above-named county, where Mrs. Carel grew up and attended school. Four children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Carel, namely: Fannie F., who died when seventeen years old; Leo, unmarried, who operates his father's farm in Lincoln township; Bessie, who is at home, and Florence, who died when one year old. The surviving children received good educations in the public schools and the Le Mars high school.

Mr. Carel is an independent voter. He has never aspired to public office, though at present a member of the Le Mars school board. He belongs to St. James Catholic church at Le Mars.

FRANK SPIECKER.

Frank Spiecker, a well-known and successful business man of Remsen and the cashier of the German Savings Bank of that place, was born in Benton county, Iowa, on September 1, 1872, the son of Hans and Amalia (Detlefs) Spiecker, who were born in Holstein, Germany, where they were educated and where they grew to manhood and womanhood. They later came to the United States and located in Davenport, Iowa, where they were married. They were ninety days on the ocean, having made the ocean voyage on a sailing vessel. After his arrival in Davenport, Hans Spiecker engaged in the drayage business and for some years conducted a dray line in that place. He and his wife later moved to Benton county, Iowa, and there they rented a farm for some years. In 1882 Hans Spiecker purchased three hundred and twenty acres of land in Fredonia township, Plymouth county, at nine dollars an acre. He did not locate on the place until 1883. On his arrival on the place, he at once began the task of development and improvement, the farm in time becoming one of the best in the township, and there Hans Spiecker engaged in general farming and stock-raising until the time of his death in 1908, at the age of sixty-six years. His widow died at the age of seventy-three years, in 1915.

Hans and Amalia Spiecker were active members of the German Evangelical Lutheran church, and were prominent in the social and the religious life of the community. Mr. Spiecker took much interest in the civic life of

the township and became one of the prominent and influential men of the district. Hans and Amalia Spiecker were the parents of the following children: Anna, Frank, Theo., Henry, Mary, Kate, Ferdinand and Margaretha. Anna married John H. McLean, of Sioux City. Frank is the subject of this sketch. Theo. is a well-known farmer of Fredonia township. Henry is a retired farmer of Remsen. Mary became the wife of Herman Oehlerts, of Fredonia township. Kate is the wife of Martin Dornbusch. Ferdinand is retired at Remsen and Margaretha died in early life.

Frank Spiecker received his education in the common and the high school of Remsen and at the Northwestern Normal School at Le Mars. Upon completing his schooling he was employed by the Farmers' Loan and Trust Company at Remsen. In 1904 the bank was reorganized as the German Savings Bank and since the reorganization Mr. Spiecker has been the cashier of the institution. James T. Toy, of Sioux City, is the president; L. H. Harnack, of Remsen, is vice-president, and Frank Spiecker is cashier. The directors of the institution are: M. A. Mieras, Simon Rothlisberger, James F. Toy, L. H. Harnack, Frank Spiecker, Anton Wintz and Joseph Zenk. The bank is one of the strongest institutions of this section of the country, and because of the financial standing of the directors and the officers of the bank, and because of the courtesy and the business-like management of the institution by the officers of the place, it has the confidence and the respect of the entire community. The constant aim of this bank organization is to give the people of the district the best service possible, consistent with conservative and good banking. The bank has had a growth that is in all ways in keeping with the growth of the community, and is today recognized as one of the leading banks of the county.

On June 19, 1895, Frank Spiecker was united in marriage to Magdalena Scheel, of Plymouth county, the daughter of Michel and Margaretha (Rostermundt) Scheel, both of whom were born in Germany and there received their education in the public schools and there grew to manhood and womanhood. Mr. and Mrs. Scheel immigrated from Germany in the early days to Benton county, Iowa, where they were married and in the year 1882 they moved to Plymouth county and engaged in general farming until the year 1888, when they retired and moved to Remsen. In the year 1907 they moved to Long Beach, California, where they are now living. There were nine children born to Mr. and Mrs. Scheel, John, Magdalena, Rosa, Emma, Herman, Henry, Gustaf, Adolf and Alma. Magdalena became the wife of Frank Spiecker; Emma, Adolf and Alma are now with

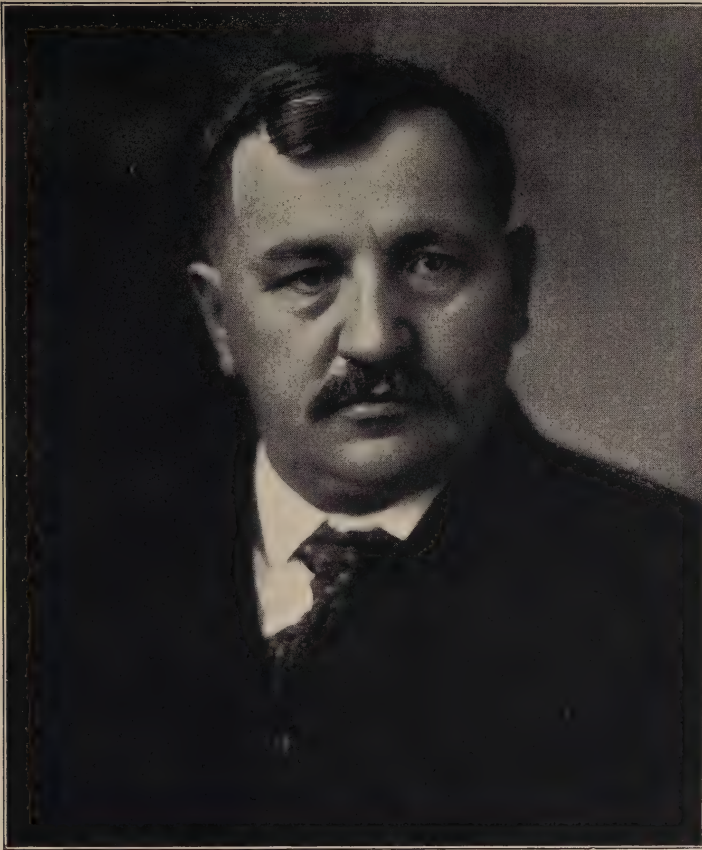
their parents at Long Beach, California, and John, Rosa, Herman, Henry and Gustaf died in the year 1886.

To Mr. and Mrs. Frank Spiecker there were born Emory H., Carl V. and Thelma R. Emory H. received his early education in the schools of Remsen and attended one year at Morningside, and is now attending the Iowa State University from which institution he will be graduated from the department of liberal arts in 1918. Carl is at home and attending the high school at Remsen and Thelma is also at home attending public school. Frank Spiecker and wife are active members of the Evangelical Lutheran Christ church at Remsen and are prominent in the social and the religious life of the community, where they are held in the highest regard and esteem. Mr. Spiecker is treasurer of Fredonia school township and has been treasurer of the town of Remsen and also treasurer of the school board, and for many years has been interested in the Farmers' Loan and Trust Company at Sioux City, and has long been and is now one of its directors. He has always been identified with the Republican party and has been active in the local affairs of the township and the town.

JOHN STARZL.

John Starzl, editor and proprietor of *Der Herold* at Le Mars, the county seat of Plymouth county, is a native of Austria, but has lived in this country since he was twelve years of age. He was born on April 9, 1866, son of Joseph and Lena (Rubert) Starzl, the former of whom was an engineer in his native land, who came to the United States with their family about 1878 and came on out to Iowa, settling on a farm in Plymouth county, in the vicinity of Le Mars, where they established their home and where both spent the remainder of their lives, the mother dying in 1888 and the father in 1908. They were the parents of eight children, of whom seven are still living, those besides the subject of this biographical sketch being as follow: Mrs. Joseph Elskamp, of Merrill, this county; Mrs. Louis Gunthren, of Stanton township, this county; Wenzel, Nic and Barthel, of Kingsbury county, South Dakota, and Joseph, who lives near Emerson, Nebraska.

As noted above, John Starzl was but twelve years of age when he came with his parents to Plymouth county and he grew up on the home farm near Le Mars, receiving his schooling in the local parochial schools, supplementing



JOHN STARZL

the same by a course in a business college at Chicago, after which he entered the Illinois College of Pharmacy in that city and was graduated from the same. Thus equipped he opened a drug store in Chicago and operated the same for four years, at the end of which time he engaged in newspaper work there and made his home in Chicago for eleven years, or until 1897, the year of his marriage, when he returned to Le Mars and bought *Der Herold*, a substantial old German weekly paper that was established in 1882, and has ever since been owner and editor of that excellent newspaper. The office of *Der Herold* was perfectly familiar to Mr. Starzl even at that time, for he had, in a measure, "grown up" with the paper, having entered its employ at the age of fourteen, shortly after it was founded, and continued working in the office until he went to Chicago in 1886. When he took over *Der Herold* Mr. Starzl inaugurated numerous important improvements in the paper and has since maintained the high standard set at that time, making it one of the most influential German newspapers in this part of the country.

It was on August 17, 1897, that John Starzl was united in marriage to Margaret Theisen, who was born in Milwaukee, and to this union three children have been born, Roman, Francis and Adella. Mr. and Mrs. Starzl are members of the Catholic church and Mr. Starzl is a member of the Catholic Order of Foresters, of which he has been chief ranger for the past fifteen years, and of the Knights of Columbus. He is a Democrat and has ever given close attention to local civic affairs.

HENRY FALKE.

Henry Falke, a well-known and successful implement and automobile dealer of Remsen, this county, and owner of the Falke Opera House in that city, was born in Hanover, Germany, on April 20, 1870, the son of William and Doretha Falke, also natives of Germany, who were married there and continued to live in the land of their nativity until 1881, when they decided to come to America, where they might obtain a home for themselves and their family. On landing in the United States they located in Christian county, Illinois, and there resided until 1884, William Falke renting land and engaging in farming for three years, at the end of which time he came to Iowa and located in Henry township, this county, where he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land, to which he later added until he became the owner of eight hundred acres, which he developed and improved and

there engaged in general farming and stock raising until he retired from the activities of farm life and moved to Remsen. To him and his wife two children were born, Henry and Mrs. Augusta Steffen, to the latter of whom two children were born, Dora and Mrs. McKinley, the latter of whom is living in Vermillion county, South Dakota. Mrs. Steffen died in 1892. Mr. and Mrs. Falke ever have taken an active interest in the social and the religious life of the community and are held in the highest regard and esteem by all. Mr. Falke has taken much interest in the civic affairs of the township, and is recognized as one of the prominent and successful men of the community.

Henry Falke was about eleven years of age when he came to this country with his parents and his schooling was received in the schools of his native land, as well as in the schools of Illinois and in Henry township, this county. He grew to manhood on the home farm, as a lad assisting his father with the work on the farm, and there he remained until 1894. After his marriage he began farming for himself on one of his father's farms and there remained until 1904, when he moved to Remsen. In 1905 he bought the implement stock of T. P. Scott at Remsen and engaged in business with Mr. Whitmer, under the firm name of Falke & Whitmer, which firm continued business until Mr. Whitmer sold his interest to Mr. Deitering, after which the business was conducted under the firm name of Falke & Deitering. Later Mr. Deitering sold to T. P. Scott and the firm became Falke & Scott; still later becoming Falke & Homan, and was thus continued until 1914, when Mr. Falke became the sole owner and has since conducted the business alone. In 1915 Mr. Falke erected the Falke block, one of the largest business blocks in the city of Remsen, the building being sixty by one hundred and twenty feet, two stories and full basement. In connection with this, Mr. Falke has a warehouse fifty by one hundred feet and another seventy-four by fifty feet, and conducts his implement and automobile business in connection with an up-to-date garage. He has the agencies for the Overland and the Buick automobiles and is doing an immense business. He handles one of the largest lines of farm machinery in Plymouth county and his trade extends to the counties of Sioux and Cherokee. Mr. Falke is a progressive business man and has won the confidence of the entire community because of his business-like methods.

In 1895 Henry Falke was united in marriage to Martha Arf, the daughter of Hans and Hulda (Brauer) Arf, well-known residents of the county, and to this union four children have been born, Viola, Vilma, Verna and

Wilhelm. Mr. and Mrs. Falke are active members of the German Lutheran church at Remsen and are prominent in the social and the religious life of the community. They take much interest in church work and Mr. Falke is a trustee of the local society. Mr. Falke has always taken an active interest in all affairs that have to do with the betterment of the town and the community, and is now a member of the city council, secretary-treasurer of the Remsen Tank Line Company and is a stockholder and a director of the Farmers' Saving Bank. He is a Republican, has long been identified with the civic life of the township and the county and has had much to do with its progress and development.

J. M. HAYES.

J. M. Hayes, auditor of Plymouth county and one of the best-known citizens of Le Mars, is a native of Nebraska, born on a farm in Webster county, that state, September 23, 1883, son of Homer and Josephine (Wells) Hayes, the former a native of New York state and the latter of Michigan, who were the parents of five children, all of whom are still living and of whom the subject of this sketch was the last-born, the others being as follow: Addie, wife of A. L. Hildreth, of Trenton, Nebraska; May, wife of W. W. Peak, living near Brush, Colorado; Arthur, of Fowler, California, and Maude, wife of Sewell Brubaker, of Cowles, Nebraska. Homer Hayes, who was a veteran of the Civil War, died in 1885 and his widow, who was a daughter of a Michigan veteran of the same war, married E. H. Keeney, another veteran, who had served in an Illinois regiment, and is still living in Webster county, Nebraska.

Reared on a farm, J. M. Hayes received his schooling in country schools and when eighteen years of age began working for railroads, starting as a telegraph operator and later being promoted to the position of station agent, in which latter capacity he served at various points on the Rock Island road and on the Minneapolis & St. Louis road. While serving with the latter company he was promoted to the position of traveling auditor of that company and for one year, while thus engaged, was stationed at Minneapolis. He then took service with the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad Company and about 1908 was sent to Kingsley, this county, as agent of that company at that place. A year later he left the railway service and took up the insurance business at Kingsley, and was thus engaged when, in November, 1914,

as the nominee of the Republican party, he was elected auditor of Plymouth county and moved to Le Mars to enter upon the duties of that office. In the June primary of 1916 Mr. Hayes was renominated for auditor without opposition.

On October 4, 1894, J. M. Hayes was united in marriage to Anna Gabrielson, of Gilmore City, this state, and to this union two children have been born, Helen, now aged ten years, and Ronald, aged four. Mr. and Mrs. Hayes are members of the Presbyterian church. Mr. Hayes is a member of the Masonic lodge at Le Mars and both he and his wife are members of the local chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star.

HUBERT NOTHEM.

Hubert Nothem, deceased, was born in Luxemburg, and died at his home in Remsen on May 31, 1909, at the age of fifty-one years. He was the son of Frank and Katherine (Hentges) Nothem. The parents received their education in the public schools of their native land and there were married. They later came to America and after their arrival in the United States came direct to Iowa and settled on a farm south of Remsen. Frank Nothem's wife died on the farm and he spent the remainder of his life with the subject of this sketch. Frank Nothem and wife were the parents of the following children: Hubert, Theodore, Elizabeth, Susan, Katherine and Adeline. The family were prominent in the social and the civic life of the community and were highly respected.

Hubert Nothem received his education in the land of his birth. As a youth he learned the cabinet-making trade in France and there remained until he was eighteen years of age, when he came to America. On arriving in this country he came direct to Iowa and located at Le Mars, where he worked at his trade for some years, after which he moved to Remsen, where he worked at the carpenter trade and later established himself in the cabinet-making business and founded the Nothem furniture store, which is still one of the substantial business concerns of Remsen. During his residence in Le Mars, Mr. Nothem was united in marriage to Catherine Frank, who was born in Chicago, the daughter of Dominic and Margaret (Simmons) Frank, both of whom were born in Luxemburg and who came to the United States and for a time lived in Caledonia, Minnesota. They later came to Iowa and located on a farm south of Remsen, where his death occurred. Her death occurred

on July 4, 1910, at the home of her son. Mr. and Mrs. Frank were the parents of six children, those besides Mrs. Nothem being Nick, of Marion township; John, deceased; Margaret and Dominic. To Hubert and Catherine (Frank) Nothem were born fifteen children, of whom thirteen are now living.

Hubert Nothem was long identified with the Democratic party and always took an active interest in the local affairs, having had much to do with the general development of the township and the county. He never aspired to office; yet because of his excellent judgment and high ideals he was often consulted in matters relating to the civic affairs of the township and his home town. He was an active member of the Catholic church, as is his widow, and was prominent in the social and the religious life of the community, held in the highest regard and esteem by all who knew him. Mr. Nothem was a man of much business ability and was recognized as one of the most substantial and successful men of the county. He owned and managed a large coal and lumber yard and planing mill at Remsen, as well as being the owner of four hundred and eighty acres of excellent land in Meadow township, all of which was under high cultivation and well improved. He was the founder of the furniture and undertaking establishment that still bears his name. He built up a large business and had the confidence and the respect of the community.

J. P. BECK.

J. P. Beck, one of the well-known and successful merchants of Remsen, was born in Des Moines, Iowa, on August 6, 1865, the son of M. M. and Catherine Beck. When J. P. Beck was two years of age, his parents moved to Ossian, Iowa, and there he received his education in the public school. At the age of sixteen he attended the Chicago Pharmacy College and later came with his father to Plymouth county and located at Remsen, where he worked for his father, who had purchased the Frank Miller store. He remained with his father until the latter retired from the business, he and J. H. Ahman then purchasing the business and continuing the same under the firm name of Beck & Ahman. This partnership continued for ten years, at the end of which time Mr. Beck bought the store, which he has since continued, under the name of the Beck Retail Commercial Union store, and has met with a large measure of success.

The father of J. P. Beck was born in Germany and there received his

education in the public schools and there grew to manhood. He remained in his native country until 1848, when he decided to come to America. He settled in Missouri, where he worked at the carpenter trade for some time, and then moved to Polk county, Iowa, where he engaged in farming until 1867, when he moved to Ossian, Iowa, and there engaged in farming, remaining there until 1881, in which year he located at Remsen, where he engaged in the general mercantile business. He started in a small way with a store but twenty-four by forty feet in size. In 1906 he erected a brick building that was twenty-five by one hundred feet, and later increased the space of the store to fifty by one hundred feet. At the time Mr. Beck engaged in business in Remsen, there were but two general stores in the town, and today his original place of business is the oldest and one of the most substantial places of business in the town. To Mr. and Mrs. Beck the following children were born: Mrs. Lena Schwebach, Mrs. Doctor Schultz, F. X., and J. P. The family has long been active in the social and the religious life of the community and is held in the highest esteem. Mr. Beck took a prominent part in the development of the township and had much to do with the civic life of the community.

J. P. Beck was united in marriage in 1888 to Susie Hoffman, the daughter of Nicholas Hoffman and wife, and to this union seven children have been born, Joseph, Adolph, Raymond, Clarence, Nora, John and Rosa. Adolph Beck married Regina Wenner.

J. P. Beck has always taken an active interest in the affairs of the community and was for eight years treasurer of Remsen. He and his family are active members of the Catholic church and have long been prominent in the social and religious life of the community. For many years Mr. Beck has been a member of the board of trustees of his church, and is an active member of the Knights of Columbus, of the Catholic Order of Foresters, of which he is treasurer; of the Roman Catholic Mutual Protective Society, and of the Luxemburg Bunderbund of America, of which he is also treasurer. He is also a stockholder and a director of the Farmers' Savings Bank of Remsen and vice-president of the Remsen Tank Line Company, and is interested in the Wynot cash store, at Wynot, Nebraska, and in the Thoma Grocery Company at Le Mars. He was one of the organizers of the Retail Commercial Union, and is one of the directors and has served as president of the company, a concern that has developed into one of the largest buying concerns in the United States. Mr. Beck is also one of the organizers and is at present one of the directors of the Des Moines Wholesale Grocery

Company, a concern that is doing an immense business in that section of the country.

J. P. Beck has long been identified with the Democratic party and has been active in the local affairs of the township and of the county, where he is held in the highest regard, being regarded as one of the most substantial and influential citizens of the community. He has had much to do with the business interests of the district and has been one of the prominent factors in the general progress and the development of the community.

MICHAEL GABEL.

Michael Gabel, a well-known and well-to-do farmer of Plymouth county, now living at Le Mars, where he has a very comfortable home at 1500 Franklin street, is a native of Germany, born in Bavaria on April 9, 1843, son of Michael Gabel and wife, farming people, who spent all their lives in their native country.

Reared on a farm in his native land, the younger Michael Gabel received his schooling in the schools of his home neighborhood and remained on the farm until the time for his entrance into the army at twenty years of age. He served his allotted period of service and was shortly afterward recalled to the colors for service during the Franco-Prussian War, upon the completion of which service he returned to the home farm and there remained until 1872, in which year he came to this country, sailing from Bremen and landing at the port of New York. Upon arriving in the United States, Mr. Gabel came West and located in Clinton county, this state, where for several years he was engaged as a farm hand, later coming over to this part of the state and settling in Sac county, where he bought a quarter of a section of raw prairie land, paying five dollars an acre for the same. In the meantime, the year after he had settled in Clinton county, Mr. Gabel had married and upon buying his quarter section in Sac county established his home there and there he remained, improving and developing his place and by purchase adding thereto until he had a fine farm of three hundred and twenty acres, until 1885, in which year he traded his half section for a farm in Preston township, this county, and moved over here. He prospered on his new farm and later added thereto until he became the owner of seven hundred and sixty acres of fine land. Upon taking possession of his farm in Preston township, Mr. Gabel found it but slightly improved and one of

his first acts in the way of development was the planting of a fine grove of about five acres, which now forms a very attractive feature of the place. In addition to his general farming he paid considerable attention to the raising of high-grade live stock and did very well, remaining on the farm until his retirement from the active labors of the same in 1907 and removal to Le Mars, where he ever since has made his home and where he and his family are very pleasantly situated. Mr. Gabel is an "independent" in his political views, but has ever given a good citizen's attention to local civic affairs. He and his family are members of the Presbyterian church.

It was in 1873, the year following his location in Clinton county, that Michael Gabel was united in marriage to Martha Goodenow and to this union have been born ten children, Milton, George, Frank, Arthur, Martin, Ernest, Leo, Elizabeth, Jesse and Mary, all of whom are married save the last two.

MICHAEL MADDEN.

One of the oldest citizens of Plymouth county is the venerable pioneer and farmer, Michael Madden, who has long been living in retirement in his cozy home in Le Mars, being now in his eighty-ninth year. During his residence of thirty-six years in this county he has seen many important changes and he has played well his part in them, always being rated as a public-spirited and loyal citizen to his adopted country and in every respect deserving of the high esteem in which he is universally held.

Michael Madden was born in County Galway, Ireland, in the year 1827, a son of Francis and Ellen Madden, both natives of Ireland, where they lived and died. They had three children, Michael being the only survivor. He grew up in his native community and there attended the neighborhood school, conducted in an old blacksmith shop. He assisted his father in farming until coming to America in 1850, the voyage from Liverpool to New York on an old-fashioned sailing vessel required forty days. He worked in New Jersey one month, receiving five dollars for his labor. He then went to Peekskill, New York, and found employment in the iron works there for three years. He came to Iowa in 1855, locating in Iowa City, then but a small village, where he hired out as a farm hand, then rented a place in Johnson county for five years, then moved to the northeastern part of that county and rented land two years, then bought forty acres, which he

improved and farmed for several years, at the end of which time he went to Marshall county and bought eighty acres, for which he paid ten dollars an acre, also rented some land there. In 1880 he came to Plymouth county and bought a half section of land in Marion township, for which he paid fifteen dollars an acre. This he improved and farmed along general lines, with his usual success, until 1894, when he retired and bought his present home, surrounded by nine acres, in the Wernli addition at Le Mars, and has since resided.

In 1854 Michael Madden was united in marriage to Margaret Donovan, also a native of Ireland, who died in 1863, without issue. Mr. Madden later married Margaret Noonan, to which union ten children were born, four of whom are still living, namely: John, who married Ellen Foran; William, who married Mary Foran and had eleven children, nine of whom are still living, Mary, Sarah, Alice, James, Francis, John, Bridget, Nora and Thomas; Mary, who married Matthew Lanners and has five children, Margaret, Peter, Joseph, Cecelia and Agnes, and Sarah, who married Henry Gallagher. The mother of these children died on December 17, 1904.

Mr. Madden still owns his farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Union township, also one of the same number of acres in Johnson township. He is well preserved for a man of his advanced years and has a splendid memory. Politically, he is a Democrat and has served as school director and road boss. He belongs to St. James's Catholic church in Le Mars.

STEPHEN CREASEY.

Stephen Creasey, one of the Plymouth county's well-to-do retired farmers, the owner of a half section of fine land in Garfield township, who has been living in the village of Kingsley since his retirement from the farm in 1897, is a native of Pennsylvania, born in Columbia county, that state, July 15, 1839, son of Capt. John and Margaret (Deitrich) Creasey, both natives of that same county, the former born in 1791 and the latter in 1798, who spent their last days on the farm on which for many years they had made their home in that county.

Capt. John Creasey was a substantial farmer of Columbia county, Pennsylvania, and for some time served as captain of militia in that county. He was born there, son of Philip Creasey and wife, also farming people, who

spent their last days there. Captain Creasey died on August 4, 1845, and his widow survived him many years, her death occurring on September 29, 1872.

Stephen Creasey was reared on the paternal farm in Pennsylvania and there remained until he was twenty-four years of age, when, in 1863, he went to Michigan and in the fall of 1865 was married in that state. There he remained, engaged in farming, until 1881, in which year he came with his family to Iowa and settled on a farm in Mills county. After two years of residence there he moved to Ida county, whence, two years later, in 1885, he came to this county and bought a half section of land in Garfield township and there established his home, remaining there, actively and profitably engaged in farming, until his retirement, in 1897, and removal to Kingsley, where he ever since has made his home and where he and his family are very pleasantly situated. Mr. Creasey continues to hold his land in Garfield township and the place is well improved. During his residence on the farm he for some time served as township trustee and in other ways has contributed of his time and energies to the public service. Mr. Creasey is a Scottish Rite Mason and a Knight Templar, attached to the blue lodge at Kingsley and to the commandery and consistory at Sioux City, and takes a warm interest in Masonic affairs.

It was on November 16, 1865, at Three Rivers, Michigan, that Stephen Creasey was united in marriage to Adelaide Collver, daughter of Peter H. and Margaret (Morgan) Collver, farming people of that vicinity, and natives of New York state, who had settled in Michigan. Peter H. Collver was born at Waterloo, New York, in 1814, son of John Collver, of Dutch descent, whose wife was a Huff. In that state Peter H. Collver married Margaret Morgan, who was born in 1823, daughter of the Rev. Cyrus Morgan and wife, the former of whom was born in Wales and who was a brother of Edwin D. Morgan, twenty-third governor of the state of New York. For years the Rev. Cyrus Morgan was a presiding elder of the Methodist Episcopal church. His last days were spent in New London, Connecticut. Peter H. Collver died in Michigan in April, 1888. His wife had preceded him to the grave more than fifteen years, her death having occurred on November 14, 1872.

To Stephen and Adelaide (Collver) Creasey four children have been born, Margaret, who married A. T. Thompson; William H., present mayor of Kingsley; A. Smith and Alvah E., the latter of whom died at the age of fifteen years.

DALE HUNTER.

Dale Hunter, one of Plymouth county's best-known and most substantial farmers, owner of a fine farm in Sioux township and manager of his late father's considerable estate adjoining the same, and who, though still in the very prime of life, claims the distinction of being the oldest continuous resident of the western part of the county, is a native of the neighboring state of Minnesota, but has been a resident of Iowa since the days of his early infancy and since then a continuous resident of Plymouth county, with the exception of a brief period spent in the practice of law at Sioux City. He was born at St. Peter, the county seat of Nicollet county, Minnesota, May 10, 1867, son of William and Amelia (Miller) Hunter, natives of Pennsylvania, who later became pioneers of this county, where the former spent his last days, a well-to-do farmer and stockman of Sioux township, and where the latter is still living, an honored pioneer of the county.

William Miller was born on a farm in Venango county, Pennsylvania, November 16, 1831, son of George and Harriet (Walker) Hunter, substantial farming people of that county. George Hunter was born in the north of Ireland and was but a child when his parents came to this country, the family settling in Mercer county, Pennsylvania, later becoming landowners in the neighboring county of Venango, where George Hunter grew to manhood and where he married Harriet Walker, who was born in Vermont, a daughter of Samuel Walker and wife, the former of whom was a son of Gideon Walker, a distinguished officer of the patriot army during the Revolutionary War. George Hunter was a substantial landowner and took an active part in the local affairs of the community in which he lived. He lived to the great age of nearly ninety years, his death occurring about 1889. He and his wife were the parents of eight children, of whom William Hunter was the second in order of birth, the others being as follow: George, who died in Pennsylvania; Walker, who also spent all his life in Pennsylvania; Sylvester, who died in youth; Rosina, deceased; Ambretta, who married Sir Angus McDonald, former premier of Canada, and is now deceased; Julia, widow of Thomas Kirk, now living at Sandy Lake, Pennsylvania, and Cynthia, unmarried, who also lives at Sandy Lake.

Reared on the home farm in Venango county, William Hunter grew to manhood there and married Amelia Miller, who was born in Mercer county, Pennsylvania, April 3, 1840, last-born of the thirteen children born to her parents, both members of old families in Pennsylvania, and of which

thirteen children all are now deceased save Mrs. Hunter and Jane, the fifth in order of birth, who is now living in Mercer county, Pennsylvania, widow of Henry Howe. In 1857, almost immediately after their marriage, William Hunter and his wife started for the West, driving through to Missouri in a covered wagon and in that state settled in Henry county, where they remained over winter, at the end of which time they proceeded on to Brown county, Kansas, where Mr. Hunter bought a discouraged settler's pre-emption claim to a quarter of a section of land and there established his home, remaining there for about five years. In the meanwhile "border ruffianism" in that section was becoming daily more disturbing, the lives of the "free-soilers" thereabout being made miserable by all sorts of persecutions, and after Mr. Hunter had lost his stock and had suffered other losses and endured further indignities at the hands of the "border ruffians," he sold his place at a further loss and in 1862 returned to Pennsylvania with his family. In the following spring, however, he returned West and settled at St. Peter, Minnesota, where he was engaged in the mercantile and grain business until 1867, in which year he disposed of his interests there and, attracted by the glowing promises then held out for settlers in northwestern Iowa, which then was being opened to settlement, came down to this part of the country and settled in Plymouth county, where he spent the rest of his life, one of the county's most substantial pioneers. Upon coming to this county Mr. Hunter bought a tract of eighty acres of meadow land lying along the river in section 32 of Sioux township and there established his home, making a specialty of raising cattle on what then was a free range, often having more than one hundred and fifty head of cattle. As he prospered in his operations, Mr. Hunter bought more land until he became the owner of a fine farm of five hundred and thirty acres, besides other land holdings in South Dakota, long being regarded as one of the leading farmers in that part of the state. From the very beginning of his residence in Plymouth county Mr. Hunter took an active part in the pioneer community's general affairs and for some time served as a member of the board of county supervisors, serving on the board with John Schneider, now the oldest living settler in Plymouth county. During his residence in Missouri, Mr. Hunter had spent some time teaching school and upon coming here turned his talents in the same direction in behalf of the children of his pioneer neighbors and was the first school teacher in Sioux township, later serving for some time as county superintendent of schools. He brought his farm up to a high state of cultivation and improved the same in excellent shape, continuing to make his home there until his death in 1908, he then being seventy-seven

years of age. His widow, who still survives him, is now in the seventy-seventh year of her age. To them six children were born, of whom the subject of this sketch is the fourth in order of birth, the others being as follow: Adelaide, who died unmarried; Elmer E., a prosperous ranchman, living at Letcher, South Dakota; Hoyt, formerly engaged in the mercantile business at Quinn, South Dakota, now engaged in the real-estate business there; Mollie, unmarried, who makes her home with her mother, and Dolly, also at home.

Having been but an infant when his parents came to this county from St. Peter, Dale Hunter grew to manhood on the pioneer farm in Sioux township and completed his schooling in the high school at Sioux City, after which he taught school for several years, meanwhile reading law in the office of Joy, Hudson & Call at Sioux City, and after four years of such reading was admitted to the bar in 1893, and for a year thereafter was engaged in the practice of his profession at Sioux City. In the meanwhile his father had retired from the active labors of the farm and presently Mr. Hunter found it desirable to return home to assume the management of the home place. He operated the place until his father's death and since then has been managing it as an estate. In 1909 he bought an adjoining tract of two hundred and thirty-three acres and has since been operating the two farms, nearly eight hundred acres in all, and is doing very well, in addition to his general farming being extensively engaged in stock raising. Mr. Hunter is a Republican and for years has given his close attention to the civic affairs of his home county. For some time he served as township trustee and for sixteen or eighteen years as a member of the school board, and was once an unsuccessful candidate for the office of county superintendent of schools. His recollection of events in this county carries back to the days of the early seventies and he is much interested in the history of his home county, being widely informed on all matters relating to the same.

In 1894 Dale Hunter was united in marriage to Evelyn Glann, of Stanton township, this county, who was born in DeKalb county, Illinois, daughter of James F. and Phoebe (Ward) Glann, the former a native of the state of New York and the latter of Ohio, who were married in DeKalb county, Illinois, and lived there, farming, until 1881, when they came to Iowa and settled on a farm in Stanton township, this county, where they remained until their retirement from the farm and removal in 1896 to Sioux City, where James F. Glann died in 1901. His widow is now living at the age of eighty-one years, with her son at Bronson, this state. To Mr. and Mrs. Hunter six children have been born, namely: Vance, who was graduated

from the Sunnyside high school, attended the State Agricultural College at Ames and is now a valued assistant to his father on the home farm; Hazel, now a student at Morningside College; Mabel, a student at the Sunnyside high school, and Nettie, Blanche and Bryce, at home. The Hunters have a very pleasant home and take a proper interest in the general social activities of the community in which they live, helpful in promoting all good works thereabout.

JULIUS H. SCHMIDT.

Julius H. Schmidt, proprietor of the pioneer drug store at Le Mars and, though a comparatively young man, one of the pioneers of Plymouth county, was born in the city of Chicago, January 5, 1870, son of John G. and Gertrude (Schafer) Schmidt, both natives of Germany, the former of whom came to this country when he was sixteen years of age and the latter when she was seven. John G. Schmidt located in Chicago upon arriving in this country and had not been here long when the Civil War broke out. He enlisted in the First Illinois Light Artillery and served with that command for three years. Some time after the completion of his military service he married and established his home in Chicago, remaining there until 1877, in which year he came to Iowa, arriving at Le Mars on February 15 of that year, being thus one of the early residents of that town. Upon settling at Le Mars Mr. Schmidt was for some time engaged in the cooper-age business, but presently bought a farm in section 24 of Marion township, this county, and moved onto the same in 1880, remaining there until after the death of his wife, in October, 1895, when he retired from the farm and returned to Le Mars, where he ever since has resided, now making his home with his son, Julius H. He and his wife were the parents of four children, the eldest of whom died at the age of thirteen, the others, besides the subject of this sketch, being Nic, who is farming the old home place in Marion township, and Katie, wife of Bernard Aasmann, of Portland, Oregon.

Julius H. Schmidt was just past seven years of age when he came to this county with his parents in 1877 and he grew up here, completing his elementary education in the public schools of Le Mars, supplementing the same by a course in the Le Mars Normal School, after which, from 1890 to 1898, he taught school in Plymouth county. In the meanwhile he had taken up the study of pharmacy and in 1898 entered Valparaiso University at Valparaiso, Indiana, from the pharmacy department of which institution

he was graduated in 1900. Returning to Le Mars he began working in drug stores there and later went to South Dakota, where he spent a year, at the end of which time he went to Chicago, where he worked in drug stores until 1910, when he returned to Le Mars and bought the S. E. Green drug store, the pioneer drug store of the town, the same having been established by P. H. Diehl in 1879 and sold by him to S. E. Green in 1906. Mr. Schmidt ever since has been conducting the drug store and has made many improvements in the same, both in stock and equipment, bringing the place up to the modern standard in every respect, and has been quite successful in his business, being recognized as one of the leading business men in the town. Mr. Schmidt is unmarried. He is a member of the Catholic church and since 1904 has been a member of the Knights of Columbus, in the affairs of which organization he takes a warm interest.

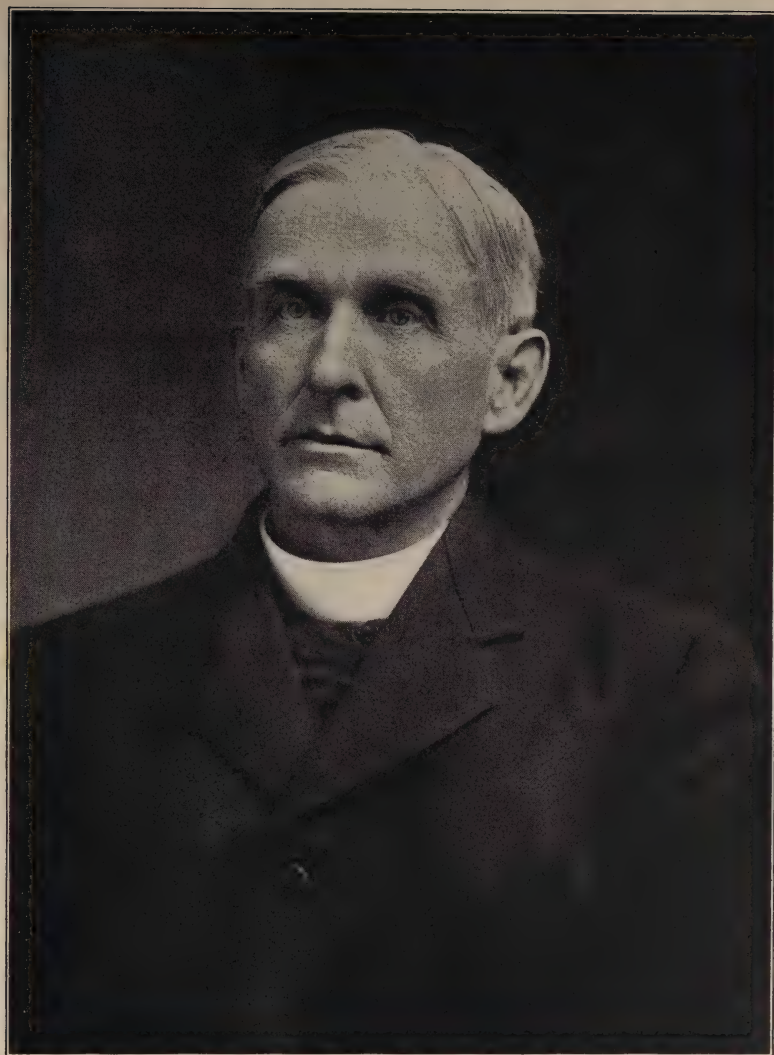
EDWARD CAREL.

Farming is one of the oldest and most agreeable of human vocations, but it is not everyone who makes a notable success of it; especially in the twentieth century, when more scientific methods than ever before have to be employed. One of the successful agriculturists of Plymouth county is Edward Carel, now living in retirement in Le Mars. He was born in Grant county, Wisconsin, June 23, 1859. A sketch of his family will be found on another page of this work. He grew to manhood on the home farm where he worked when a boy, and he attended the common schools of Wisconsin, after which he continued to work on the homestead, later working out as a farm hand, receiving from fifteen to twenty dollars a month. In 1878 he came to Plymouth county, locating in Lincoln township, with the rest of the family, and here bought one hundred and sixty acres, for which he paid twenty-five dollars an acre. This land was partly improved, but he broke the ground on eighty acres of it and soon had it cultivated. He prospered through close application and good management and added more ground to his original holdings until he now owns a choice and well-improved farm of five hundred and thirty acres in Lincoln, Stanton, Union and Elkhorn townships. Mr. Carl engaged in general farming and stock raising on an extensive scale until the spring of 1916, when he moved to Le Mars, where he owns a modern home. While on the farm he raised various kinds of live stock and was a breeder of thoroughbred Shorthorn cattle.

On July 9, 1907, Edward Carel was married to Elizabeth Hickey, a daughter of Michael and Isabelle (O'Neil) Hickey. She was born in Toronto, Canada, of Irish extraction. Her father, Thomas Hickey, was brought by his parents to the city of Toronto when he was three years old and there he grew up and was educated. He removed to the United States in 1869, locating near Hinton, Iowa, taking up a homestead, on which he lived two years, then returned to Canada and farmed there many years, finally taking up the trade of stone-cutter. His family consisted of ten children, three of whom are now living in Plymouth county, Iowa, namely: Mrs. Ed Taylor, of Le Mars; Mrs. Fred Shepard, of Stanton township, and Mrs. Elizabeth Carel. To Mr. and Mrs. Carel one child has been born, a son, Daniel. Mr. Carel is a Democrat and he and his wife belong to the St. James Catholic church.

REV. FRANCIS SCHULTE.

Much praise is due the Catholic church for its efforts in behalf of the extension of the Christian religion and for its great work in behalf of education. In many sections of the United States this church has been the first to carry the message of the "Prince of Peace," and to establish a system of education; much of the success of this work having been due to the untiring efforts and sacrifices of the priests of this great religious denomination. Among the men who have devoted their lives for the cause which they represent is the Rev. Francis Schulte, a well-known and prominent priest of Remsen, Plymouth county, Iowa. Father Schulte is a native son of Iowa, born at New Vienna on January 23, 1858, the son of Anton and Elizabeth Schulte, natives of the Prussian province of Westphalia, Germany, and there they received their education in the schools of that place, where they grew to manhood and womanhood and were married. They were of well-known and prominent families of that section, and were prominent in the social and religious life of the community. As a young man, Anton Schulte learned the carpenter trade, at which he worked during his residence in his native land. Some years after their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Schulte decided to leave the land of their nativity and seek a home in America. It was with reluctance that they bade farewell to their loved ones and the many familiar scenes of their youth and came to a strange land and located among strange people and amid strange conditions. On their arrival in the United States they came direct to Iowa, and located at



REV. FRANCIS SCHULTE

New Vienna, where Mr. Schulte continued his work as a carpenter. He built the first Catholic church at that place, as well as many of the other principal buildings there and in that vicinity. He was known as a most thorough, careful and exact workman and spent his life in the work. Mr. and Mrs. Schulte were consistent Christians and devoted their lives to the secular and religious training of their children; four of the twelve children born to them becoming priests, the subject of this sketch being the only member of the family to locate in Plymouth county. The Rev. Joseph Schulte is now located at Breda, Iowa, and the other two brothers, Conrad and Bernard, who were in the priesthood, are now deceased.

The Rev. Francis Schulte received his first educational training at New Vienna and then attended St. Francis Seminary at Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He was ordained a priest in June, 1883, and in that same month read his first mass at the St. Joseph church, at Le Mars. Soon after his ordination, Father Schulte was appointed assistant in St. Mary's parish at Dubuque, where he remained until 1885, when he took charge of St. Mary's parish at Remsen, since which time he has been in charge of the congregation at that place, and here he has won the confidence and esteem of all denominations for the great and good work that he has done and is doing. Since coming to his charge in Remsen, Father Schulte has completed the frame church that was then under construction; established the first parochial school, in 1886; built the beautiful parsonage, which is now his home, and erected a fine school building. In 1891 a fine Sister's house was constructed and he engaged the St. Francis Sisters, of Dubuque, to take charge of the school, which they have conducted with wonderful success since that time. Owing to the growth of the congregation, the need of a new and larger church was seen and through the efforts of Father Schulte the corner stone of the present magnificent structure was laid in 1903. In due time the new St. Mary's church was completed, at a cost of fifty-four thousand dollars; to which was added six thousand dollars for furniture and decorations, today standing as a monument to the efforts of Father Schulte and the faithful members of his parish. For beauty and magnificence St. Mary's church at Remsen is the finest church in the Sioux City diocese, the plans having been made by Guido Beck, of Dubuque. In 1912 the St. Mary's parochial school building was erected at a cost of thirty-three thousand dollars and is one of the finest school buildings in this section of the country. There are eight class rooms, with a large auditorium, and two large rooms which are used as a dormitory for the country children. This school is also conducted by the Sisters of St. Francis. The institution occupies one

solid block, and there are cared for two hundred and seventy-five children, on an average. There are seven Sisters and one male teacher, in immediate charge of the school, and the work is all of the highest class, the best of instruction being given the pupils of the school. The work done is of as high grade as that attempted in the public schools, in addition to which much time is given to the moral and religious training of the children.

The congregation of St. Mary's church is composed of two hundred and seventy families, of fourteen hundred souls. In addition to his many duties in connection with so large a congregation, the Rev. Francis Schulte has supervision of and is chaplain of the local German Catholic Mutual Protective Society, the Society of Christian Mothers, and the young men's and young ladies societies.

St. Mary's church, with all its schools, societies and organizations, is doing a wonderful work in Plymouth county and Father Schulte has demonstrated his ability as an organizer and an executive of more than ordinary ability, today being recognized as one of the foremost men of the community, and one to whom the community owes much. He has builded for future generations and his great work will live long after he has been called to his reward. Not alone is he held in the highest regard by the members of his church, but by the entire community, his work standing as a monument to the man who has given his life to the great cause of education and religion. His broad views of life have made it possible for him to build for the future, and the present flourishing state of church and school is evidence of his sincerity.

ALFRED FRY.

Alfred Fry, one of the best-known and most substantial pioneer farmers of Plymouth county, the owner of a fine farm in Sioux township and one of the leaders in the civic life of that community, is a native of England, but has been a resident of this county since he was twenty-one years of age and has consequently been a witness to the wonderful development that has marked this region during the past generation. He was born in Dorsetshire on January 11, 1860, son of Joseph and Ellen (Waldon) Fry, also natives of England, the former of whom was a contracting builder, who rented a small piece of land for the employment of his sons. The Frys were

members of the established Church of England and for many years Joseph Fry was a member of the vestry of his local parish. He died about 1889, being then at the age of seventy-six years, and his widow survived him but a year or two, she being seventy years of age at the time of her death.

Upon completing his schooling in the schools of his native Dorsetshire, Alfred Fry learned the trade of butcher, finishing his apprenticeship in 1881, when, he then being twenty-one years of age, he decided to come to America and try his fortunes over here. He made the trip over with H. G. S. Codd and with the latter came on out to Iowa, settling in Plymouth county, where for eight years thereafter he was engaged as a farm hand in the employ of various farmers here. He then returned to England for a brief visit, but presently returned to Plymouth county and in 1889 bought a farm of eighty acres in section 11 of Sioux township. When Mr. Fry took possession of his place it was but partially broken, and he had to undergo the pioneer's experience of breaking up and bringing under cultivation his acres. At first he put up a small house and temporary farm buildings, but as his affairs prospered he added to and improved the same and in 1908 erected his present comfortable residence and in 1914 the commodious barn. He also has added to his land holdings until now he is the owner of a fine farm of two hundred acres and is doing very well in his farming operations. Mr. Fry is a Democrat and for some time served as trustee of his home township. He also has given the public service in the capacity of school director during several different terms.

It was on November 19, 1886, at Sioux City, at Alfred Fry was united in marriage to Annie Cavanagh, who was born in Ireland, and to this union six children have been born, namely: Maude, who married Cyrus P. Knapp, a well-known farmer of Sioux township, a biographical sketch of whom is presented elsewhere in this volume; Gladys, who married Jesse Cross and lives at Curlew, this state; Winnie, a student at Cedar Falls College; Waldon, a valued assistant to his father on the home farm; Violet, who is a teacher in the schools of Sioux township, and Ursula, who is a student at the Sunnyside high school. The Frys have a very pleasant home and take a proper part in the general social activities of the community in which they live, ever helpful in promoting all good causes thereabout. Mr. Fry is one of the genial pioneers of Plymouth county and recalls distinctly the time when there were but three houses between the site of his present home and the village of Akron.

CHARLES L. KNOWLES.

Charles L. Knowles, dealer in hardware and furniture and undertaker at Kingsley and for years one of the best-known merchants in Plymouth county, is a native of Illinois, but has been a resident of Kingsley since he was eight or nine years of age. He was born on a farm in Rock Island county, Illinois, February 7, 1876, son of Ianthus S. and Mary (Dodge) Knowles, who later became residents of Kingsley, this county, where their last days were spent.

Ianthus Schaler Knowles was born in Rock Island county, Illinois, on December 21, 1848, and grew to manhood there. He married Mary Dodge and made his home on a farm there until 1885, in which year he disposed of his interests in Illinois and came to Iowa, settling at Kingsley, where he engaged in the agricultural-implement business as a member of the firm of Marshall & Knowles. A year later he bought his partner's interest in the business and a year following bought the hardware stock of Thomas & Thompson, merging the stocks, and thereafter continued in business at Kingsley in the general hardware and implement line, at the same time conducting an undertaking establishment, until his death in 1915, and the business is now conducted by his son, the subject of this sketch. In 1913 I. S. Knowles erected the present substantial business block in which the store is located, a building fifty by eighty feet in ground dimensions and two stories in height and containing a stock valued at about twelve thousand dollars. Mr. Knowles was ever active in local public affairs, was for some years mayor of the city, had also served for years as a member of the city council and had also rendered equally valuable service as a member of the school board. He died on May 22, 1915. His wife had preceded him to the grave a little more than eight months, her death having occurred in August, 1914. They were the parents of ten children, all surviving, of whom the subject of this sketch is the youngest, the others being Clara, Eva, Fanny, George, Harry, Frank, Ellen, Fred and Ralph.

Charles L. Knowles was about nine years of age when his parents moved from Illinois to Kingsley and his schooling was completed in the high school at Kingsley. From boyhood he took an interest in the affairs of his father's mercantile business and "grew up" in the store, a valuable assistant in the operation of the same, and some time before his father's death he and his brother, Ralph, had been admitted to a partnership in the concern. Upon their father's death in the spring of 1915 they continued the management

of the store and on June 1, 1916, Charles Knowles bought his brother's interest in the business and has since been conducting it as sole proprietor. For twenty-five years, or since the days of his boyhood, Mr. Knowles has been actively identified with the business interests of Kingsley and is thus one of the best-known merchants in that part of the county.

On June 4, 1902, Charles Knowles was united in marriage to Edna Johnson and to this union six children have been born, Mamie, Eleanor, Mildred, Edward, Helen and Schaler. Mr. and Mrs. Knowles have a very pleasant home at Kingsley and give their earnest attention to all movements having to do with the advancement of the best interests of their home community.

FRED G. MEINERT.

Fred G. Meinert, a well-known and successful druggist of Remsen, member of the city council and former postmaster there, was born in Westphalia, Germany, on June 15, 1862, the son of George and Elizabeth (Gruetholeter) Meinert, the former of whom, as a young man, engaged in the bakery and grocery business and became quite successful, continuing in that business, in his native land, until the time of his death. He and his wife were prominent in the social and the religious life of the community and were held in the highest regard by all who knew them. They were the parents of six children, Mary, Annie, Fred G., Elizabeth, Louisa and Gottfried. The family were all educated in the public and private schools of their native country and there they continued to live, with the exception of Fred G., Mary Anna and Gottfried.

Fred G. Meinert received his education in public and private schools of his native land and continued to live there until he was nineteen years of age, when, in 1881, he decided to come to America. Upon arriving at the port of New York, after his voyage from Bremen, he came direct to Iowa and remained for a few days at Dubuque, after which he located at Dyersville and took up the work of a carpenter and continued in the work in the locality until 1885, when he came to Plymouth county and located at Remsen, where he engaged with Townsend Brothers, in the hardware and lumber business, continuing thus engaged until 1889, when, in partnership with John Fisch, he purchased the drug store of J. J. Frater, that being the first drug store in the town of Remsen. The store was located in a small building, twenty by sixty feet, but was later moved to the Meinert

& Fisch block, fifty by one hundred feet, that had been built by Meinert & Fisch. The block is also occupied by the First National Bank and by the Wentz grocery store.

When Fred G. Meinert first engaged in the drug business at Remsen he had as a partner John Fisch, who remained with him for fourteen years, the end of which time Mr. Meinert purchased the business and has since been conducting it alone. Since assuming possession of the business Mr. Meinert has made many changes in the same and today has one of the finest drug stores in this section of the state. He has been quite successful in business, and by close application to his work has become one of the substantial and successful men of the town.

In 1888 Fred G. Meinert was united in marriage to Anna Fisch, daughter of John and Anna (Deiderich) Fisch, and to this union nine children have been born, Mary, Dorothea, Elsie, Anna, Hedwig, Hildegard, Louisa, Ludmilla and Joseph. Mary Meinert married John Marx and has two children, Marcel and Florence. Dorothea Meinert married John McCoy. Elsie Meinert married Henry Hey and has one child, a son, Frederick.

Fred G. Meinert started life as a poor boy and had but four weeks of schooling in the schools of the United States. The greater part of his education he has gained through his own efforts, and today he is one of the best-informed men of the community. He engaged in business in Remsen with limited capital and by his industry and business ability has become one of the prominent business men of the town. Having come to the United States as a mere lad, he had his own way to make in a strange land and among a strange people. He realized his position and sought employment in whatever line he could obtain work. He well knew what he wanted to do, but was content to realize his final end by hard work. He soon won the confidence of those for whom he worked and made friends in his struggle for a permanent position, among the business men of the community. He was not a stickler for short hours or more pay, but did his very best for what he was receiving, and worked on the principle that a thing that is worth doing at all is worth doing right and well. Since engaging in business for himself, he has carried out the principles of his younger life and has endeavored to give value received to those who trade with him. He and his family are active members of the Catholic church and are prominent in the social and the religious life of the community. Mr. Meinert is a member of the city council, a position he has occupied for several years, and he also has served as postmaster of Remsen.

JOHN BOGEN.

John Bogen, proprietor of the Le Mars marble works and one of the best-known and most substantial business men of that city, former president of the Iowa Marble and Granite Dealers' Association, and former member of the Le Mars city council, is a native of the Dominion of Canada, born on a farm in Ontario, May 12, 1858, son of Frederick and Rosa Bogen.

Reared on the paternal farm in Ontario, John Bogen received but a limited schooling in his youth, the better part of his education being obtained by reading newspapers, and he early became imbued with the idea of going in business for himself. He became a cabinet-maker and some time before coming to Iowa was manager of a large furniture factory at Mt. Forest, Ontario. Owing to ill health, he was obliged to seek a change of climate, and in 1893 he put in a marble plant at Le Mars, and from the very beginning his enterprise was successful, his establishment now being the only one of the kind in Le Mars, he having bought out three other marble plants there at different times. Ever since engaging in the monument business Mr. Bogen has maintained the closest relations with his trade associates and for three years was president of the Iowa State Marble and Granite Dealers' Association, of which he was one of the earliest "boosters" and of which he has ever been an earnest and consistent supporter. He also is a member of the national association of dealers in that line and takes a warm and active interest in the affairs of the same. Mr. Bogen is one of the most active promoters of the general material interests of Le Mars and is an influential member of the Commercial Club of that city. He is a member of the board of directors and treasurer of the Wheat Mill Company and has other business interests besides his main line. Mr. Bogen is a Republican and has ever taken a good citizen's part in the civic affairs of his home town, for five years having served as a member of the city council. He is a member of the First Methodist Episcopal church and has been a trustee of the same for the past twenty-five years. Fraternally he is affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and with the United Commercial Travelers Association.

On June 5, 1884, while still making his home in Canada, John Bogen was united in marriage to Florence L. Rorke, of Owen Sound, Ontario, and to this union six children have been born, namely: Allen W., a successful teacher of music in Chicago; Lillian, who is at home; Arthur, a traveling

representative of his father's marble works; Harry, an engraver in the same; Ella, wife of Carl Challin, of Le Mars, and Walter F., who was graduated from the Le Mars high school with the class of 1916.

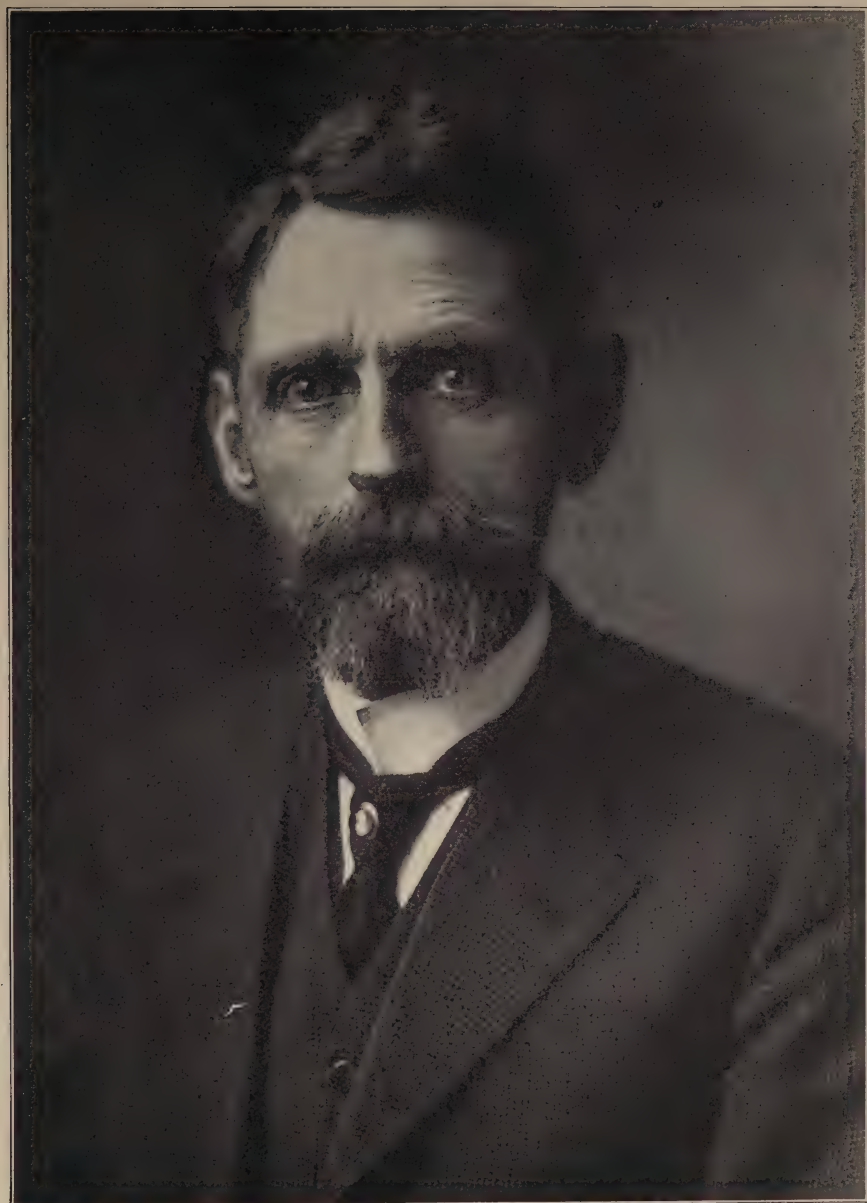
FRANK M. ROSEBERRY.

Frank M. Roseberry, senior member of the law firm of Roseberry & Roseberry at Le Mars and one of the oldest members of the Plymouth county bar, is a native of New Jersey, born at Belvidere, that state, September 19, 1857, son of Joseph M. and Sallie (Depue) Roseberry, the former a native of New Jersey and the latter of Pennsylvania.

Joseph M. Roseberry was born on October 5, 1804, son of Michael Roseberry, who was born in New Jersey in 1760 and whose father served as a soldier in the patriot army during the Revolutionary War. Joseph M. Roseberry died at Belvidere, New Jersey, in August, 1887. His wife had preceded him to the grave about seven years, her death having occurred on May 30. They were the parents of nine children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the last-born and of whom six are still living, those besides Frank M. Roseberry being as follow: A. D. Roseberry, of Belvidere, New Jersey; Mrs. Margaret Titman, of that same place; Mrs. Nettie Long, of Bangor, Pennsylvania; Judge Joseph M. Roseberry, of Belvidere, New Jersey, and Mrs. Belle Besson, of Hoboken, New Jersey.

Frank M. Roseberry was prepared for college in private schools and entered Princeton University, a fellow student of Woodrow Wilson, and was graduated from that institution in 1881. In that same year he came to Iowa and entered the law department of the Iowa State University, graduating in 1883, when he opened an office for the practice of law at Le Mars. A year later he moved over to Remsen, but in 1888 moved back to Le Mars, where he ever since has been engaged in practice, for many years having been regarded as one of the leading lawyers in this part of the state. His son, C. D. Roseberry, is now associated with him in practice, under the firm name of Roseberry & Roseberry.

It was on September 16, 1885, that Frank M. Roseberry was united in marriage to Della M. Page, of Remsen, this county, and to this union three children have been born, Clarence Depue, Florence M. and Irene D. Clarence Depue Roseberry, present county attorney of Plymouth county, was graduated from Cornell College and after taking two years at the law



FRANK M. ROSEBERRY

department of the Iowa State University engaged in practice, in partnership with his father, at Le Mars. Florence M. Roseberry, who is a graduate of the Iowa State University, is the wife of of Frank L. Stearns, of Le Mars, a traveling representative of the firm of Marshall Field & Company, of Chicago. Irene D. Roseberry is now a senior at the Iowa State University. The Roseberrys are members of the Presbyterian church and Mr. Roseberry is president of the official board of the same. He is a Republican and in his fraternal affiliations is connected with the local lodges of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and of the Knights of Pythias.

JOHN HENRY AHMANN.

John Henry Ahmann, one of the well-known and successful business men of Remsen, mayor of that city and a member of the firm of Tierney & Ahmann, dealers in and buyers and shippers of grain, flour and feed, was born in Delaware county, Iowa, on April 28, 1859, the son of Adolph Otto and Anna Marie (Rahe) Ahmann, who were born in Westphalia, Germany, and who came to America, both locating in Dubuque county, Iowa, where they were later married. As a young man in his native country, Adolph Otto Ahmann learned the cabinet-making and carpenter trade, at which he worked on coming to the United States. He assisted in the building of the first Catholic church at New Vienna, Iowa, and later purchased a farm in Delaware county, paying for the same one dollar and twenty-five cents an acre. That farm he developed and improved and there he engaged in general farming and stock raising until his death in October, 1886. His widow died in Dubuque in 1914. They were active members of the Catholic church and were long prominent in the social and religious life of the community and were held in the highest regard by all who knew them. They were the parents of eight children, John Henry, Andrew, Clem, Barney, Frank, Joseph and two who died in infancy. John Henry Ahmann is the subject of this sketch. Andrew Ahmann is a farmer at Woodstock, Minnesota. Clem Ahmann, who died on September 4, 1916, was a well-known and successful lumber dealer at Clarion, Iowa. Barney Ahmann is a prosperous farmer in Dickey county, North Dakota. Frank Ahmann is a retired farmer, now living at Remsen, and Joseph Ahmann is a prominent and successful stock man of the county.

Adolph Otto Ahmann was a man of prominence in his community and always took much interest in local affairs, his advice and influence often being sought in matters that pertained to the affairs of both the township and the county. His life was an active one and he accomplished much that is worthy of emulation. Coming to the state without financial influence and among strangers and amid new conditions, he, by his own efforts, became recognized as one of the substantial and influential men of the district.

John Henry Ahmann received his education in the local schools of Delaware county, and grew to manhood there on the home farm, where as a young man he assisted his father with the farm work and the development of the place. He remained at home until he was twenty-four years of age, when he went to Sioux county and there rented a farm for two years, after which he came to Plymouth county and here purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in Remsen township. The farm at that time was undeveloped and unimproved and he devoted his time to breaking the prairie sod and making improvements until 1887. He then purchased another farm of one hundred and sixty acres in the township and there engaged in general farming and stock raising until 1896, in which year he formed a partnership with J. P. Beck, in the general mercantile business, and after ten years of successful business the partnership was dissolved, Mr. Ahmann taking his share of the business in land in Dickey and Sargent counties, North Dakota, where he now has two thousand seven hundred and twenty acres of land. In 1900 he sold his second farm in Remsen township and purchased two hundred and forty acres in Meadow township, at forty dollars an acre. After having obtained his large tract of land in North Dakota, Mr. Ahmann resided on the place from 1906 to 1910, and was there engaged in farming. He later purchased from T. H. Solomon the elevator at Remsen. Associated with Mr. Ahmann in the elevator business is J. A. Tierney and they handle all kinds of grain, flour and feed. Since assuming possession of the business in 1910 these men have made many improvements in the concern and have enlarged the business, which is now quite extensive and on a growing basis. The firm of Tierney & Ahmann has the confidence and the respect of the entire community, for its honest and business-like methods. The firm buys and ships much of the grain of this section and its products to all parts of the country, and has demonstrated its ability to handle the business on a large scale, the business now being recognized as one of the substantial concerns of the town.

In the spring of 1880 John Henry Ahmann was united in marriage to Josephine Bohmenkamp, who was born in Delaware county, this state, and to that union four children have been born, John, Clem, Henry and Susan. John Ahmann is now the manager of the East Side Lumber Company, of Remsen, and is giving general satisfaction. Clem Ahmann is assistant cashier of the First National Bank of Remsen and is held in the highest esteem by the officials of that institution. Henry Ahmann is in the lumber business and is meeting with much success. Susan Ahmann died in the year 1897. Mrs. Josephine Ahmann died on August 14, 1894, mourned by a large circle of friends, who admired her for her many kindly acts and womanly traits. When she and Mr. Ahmann married and rented the farm in Sioux county, their first residence was in a repaired, discarded barn; but, with her husband, she assisted in the work of making their lives financially successful. She devoted her life to her children and her husband and was an active member of the St. Mary's Catholic church, prominent in the social and religious life of the community, where she was held in high esteem.

John Henry Ahmann later was united in marriage to Mrs. Cecelia George of Marcus, Iowa, and in this union seven children have been born, Alfonso, Cecelia, Caroline, Colista, Loretta, Cletius and Helen. Mr. and Mrs. Ahmann are members of the Catholic church and Mr. Ahmann has served as school director, as trustee and councilman and is now serving his first term as Mayor of Remsen.

JOHN HENTGES.

John Hentges, deceased pioneer merchant of Le Mars, was born in Bissen, grand duchy of Luxemburg, Europe, June 18, 1839, and died on January 22, 1911, aged seventy-two years.

At the age of twenty-four, most of the time previously having been spent in his own country and in France, he, with his brother, Nicholas, decided to come to America, the land of opportunity and promise. In 1863 they settled in Chicago, where they lived for several years, and from there went to Caledonia, Minnesota. In 1870 they joined the general movement further west and bought land in Plymouth county, Iowa, engaging with Mr. Burg in farming and stock raising nine miles southeast of Le Mars.

On January 19, 1871, John Hentges was united in marriage to Mary Burg, of Caledonia, Minnesota. Eleven children were born to that union, Mrs.

Dana N. Hoffman, John, Edward, Cecelia, Clara, Frank, Joseph, Stephen, Leonard, Clementine and Romane, all of whom are living.

In 1874 John Hentges formed a partnership with M. Burg and engaged in clothing and general merchandise trade at Le Mars under the firm name of Burg & Hentges. The business prospered, due to the firm's reputation for square dealing, honest merchandising and the access they had to a large trade territory, which at that time extended as far north as Sioux Falls and east and south to Cherokee and Kingsley. They soon outgrew their quarters and in 1881 bought what was then known as the Flint block, on the corner of Main and Sixth streets, the property consisting of two store rooms, twenty-five by one hundred feet, the second floor being used for offices. The dry goods department occupied one room and clothing and shoes the other. In 1894 the partnership was dissolved, Mr. Hentges continuing the clothing and shoes and Mr. Burg the dry goods. The two firms operate today under the names of the Hentges Clothing Company and M. Burg.

Branch stores were opened in Yankton, South Dakota, in 1902; at Watertown, South Dakota, in 1910, and at Alton, Iowa, in 1912. In 1914 an exclusive shoe store was also opened at Le Mars, the shoes formerly having been carried with the clothing, but lack of room made this latter move necessary. In 1916 a tailoring and French dry-cleaning establishment was also added to the clothing department. Besides his interests in mercantile lines, Mr. Hentges also acquired land holdings in Iowa and South Dakota; and these, together with the store, are managed by the seven sons. Some of the elder sons had, at an earlier date, assisted in taking an active interest in the business at the time Mr. Hentges decided to retire. While spending the winter in Los Angeles, California, Mrs. Hentges died on March 9, 1912, about a year after the death of her husband.

Mr. and Mrs. Hentges identified themselves with the early development of Plymouth county and Le Mars, taking an active interest in the business, religious and social activities of the community. Pioneering in this new country carried with it the usual hardships, disappointments and sacrifices that go hand in hand with the building up of a new country, but it failed to shake their faith in this garden spot of Iowa, for they would foresee the possibilities sooner or later to come into their own.

When times were hard, and money scarce Mr. Hentges and Mr. Burg were ever ready to extend a helping hand, granting credit and favors which meant much to the needy and struggling settlers. The Hentges Clothing Company today, in its modern and newly-equipped stores, enjoys an enviable

reputation for good and honest merchandising. Its founder, John Hentges, strived for this in the very beginning, realizing its desirability as a valuable asset, so necessary to the success and future of any business.

GROVE LILLY.

The late Grove Lilly, one of the pioneers of Plymouth county and at the time of his death one of the best-known and most substantial farmers of Sioux township, was a native of Massachusetts, but has been a resident of Iowa since 1864 and of Plymouth county since 1871 and had thus been a witness to and a participant in the wonderful development that has marked this region during the past generation. He was born in Franklin county, Massachusetts, January 1, 1833, son of Samuel and Abigail (Church) Lilly, both natives of that same state, of old New England stock, their great-grandparents having been among the early settlers in western Massachusetts. They were members of the Episcopal church and their children were reared in that faith. There were nine of these children, of whom the subject of this memorial sketch was the first-born, the others being as follow: Alice, who died in infancy; Ellen, who married Horatio Bement and died in Massachusetts; Duane, a traveling salesman, who died in Massachusetts; Wallace, a farmer, who died at his home near Oneida, in Sully county, South Dakota; Albert, who was a veteran of the Civil War, having served in an Ohio regiment, whose last days were spent on the old home place in Massachusetts; Alonzo, who became a resident of this county, a farmer, whose last days were spent in the village of Westfield; Clarence, who is now living retired near the city of Boston, and Evelyn, widow of Lucien Guilford, living at Boston.

Grove Lilly completed his schooling in the local academy in the neighborhood of his boyhood home in Franklin county, Massachusetts, and early became a salesman, employed in that capacity at Ashfield, Massachusetts. Following their marriage in the spring of 1861 he and his wife made arrangements to try their fortune farther west and in December, 1862, located at Dover, Ohio, not far from the city of Cleveland, where Mr. Lilly became engaged as a salesman; but after a few months there moved to Rockford, Illinois, where he also was employed as a salesman. A few months later he and his wife moved to Portage, Wisconsin, where lived a married sister of Mrs. Lilly and in the spring of 1864 both families came over into Iowa

and located at Dubuque, making the trip from LaCrosse by boat. After a short period of residence at Dubuque they came farther west and located at Waterloo, this state, in the neighborhood of which place Grove Lilly bought a farm, on which he made his home for several years, at the end of which time he returned with his family to Dubuque county, where he remained for about five years, or until the summer of 1871, when he came to Plymouth county, arriving here on August 9 of that year. Upon his arrival here Mr. Lilly bought a half section of land that had been homesteaded but a short time before, two miles west of Le Mars, and in the claim shanty that had been built on the line dividing the two quarter sections he and his family set up their home and set about the development of the farm. The family had come over from Dubuque in a prairie schooner and had horses and cattle with which to begin their farming operations, but the breaking of the virgin prairie soil was new work to them and they suffered numerous hardships during the early period of their pioneering. Presently, however, the little claim shanty was supplanted by a more commodious and comfortable dwelling and the farm was well improved. Some years later Mr. Lilly sold that place to advantage and moved to the "broken kettle" district, near Milnerville, where he bought a quarter of a section of well-improved land and there made his home until some time later he sold that place and then bought a farm of three hundred and twenty acres farther west, on the Sioux river, where he again established a home and where he spent the rest of his life, developing there a fine farm, well improved and brought up to a high standard of cultivation. Mr. Lilly was a Republican, but had never aspired to public office.

It was on May 12, 1861, in Franklin county, Massachusetts, that Grove Lilly was united in marriage to Jennie L. Bardwell, who also was born in that county, August 16, 1842, daughter of Olin and Mary (Hardy) Bardwell, also natives of the state of Massachusetts, of English stock, the former a son of Chester and Mary (Hannum) Bardwell and the latter a daughter of Constantine Hardy and wife, all substantial farming people. Olin Bardwell and wife were the parents of six children, those besides Mrs. Lilly being as follow: Clark W., a farmer, who died at his home in Massachusetts at the age of fifty-five; Statyra, widow of Albert W. Crafts, now living at the age of eighty-eight at Ashfield, Massachusetts; Angelina, who married Charles B. Blake and died at Dubuque, this state; Dolly H., who married Joseph C. Prouty and died in Massachusetts, and Mary L., who married Hurlbert Eldridge and died in Massachusetts. Mrs. Lilly, widow of Grove

Lilly, is now living on the old home place in Sioux township, one of the best-known pioneers of the western part of Plymouth county. Despite the fact that she now is well past the traditional three-score-years-and-ten period of her life. Mrs. Lilly is still possessed of strong powers of both mind and body and retains the heartiest interest in current events. It was on October 28, 1907, that her husband died and since then she has continued to reside on the old home place in Sioux township, where the family for so many years has been very comfortably established.

To Grove and Jennie L. (Bardwell) Lilly five children were born, namely: Albert, who died in infancy; Hadry B., born in Blackhawk county, now a well-known farmer living east of Westfield, married Carrie E. Marchant and has seven children, Jennie M., Hattie Fern, Doris Ann, David Grove, June, Carroll and H. Bardwell; Alonzo D., died in Dubuque county, January 13, 1870, now living on a farm adjoining that of his mother in Sioux township, married May Robinson, who died leaving four children, Vernon, Clark, Angie and Marjorie, after which he married Edna G. Murray; Stanley P., born on May 11, 1872, living on a farm one-half mile south of that of his mother, married Mabel Harrington and has four children, Evelyn, Wallace, Audrey and Shirley, and Olin B., born on October 4, 1874, living with his mother on the old home place, married Jennie Harrington and has three children, Olin J., Clare and Wayne.

E. J. LIECHTY, M. D.

The man who devotes his talents and energies to the work of conscientiously ministering to mankind in an attempt to relieve the sufferings of humanity pursues a most important calling. One of the leading general physicians of the younger generation in Plymouth county is Dr. E. J. Liechty, of Kingsley, who has spared neither pains nor expense properly to fit himself for his chosen career.

Doctor Liechty was born in Polk county, Iowa, January 24, 1879, a son of A. E. and Sarah (Kein) Liechty, natives of Polk county, where they grew up, married and established their home, and in fact spent their active lives. The father was a carpenter by trade. He was a member of the Congregational church and of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. His death occurred in 1912, at the age of sixty-two years. His widow is now living in Finley, Ohio. To these parents three children were born, namely:

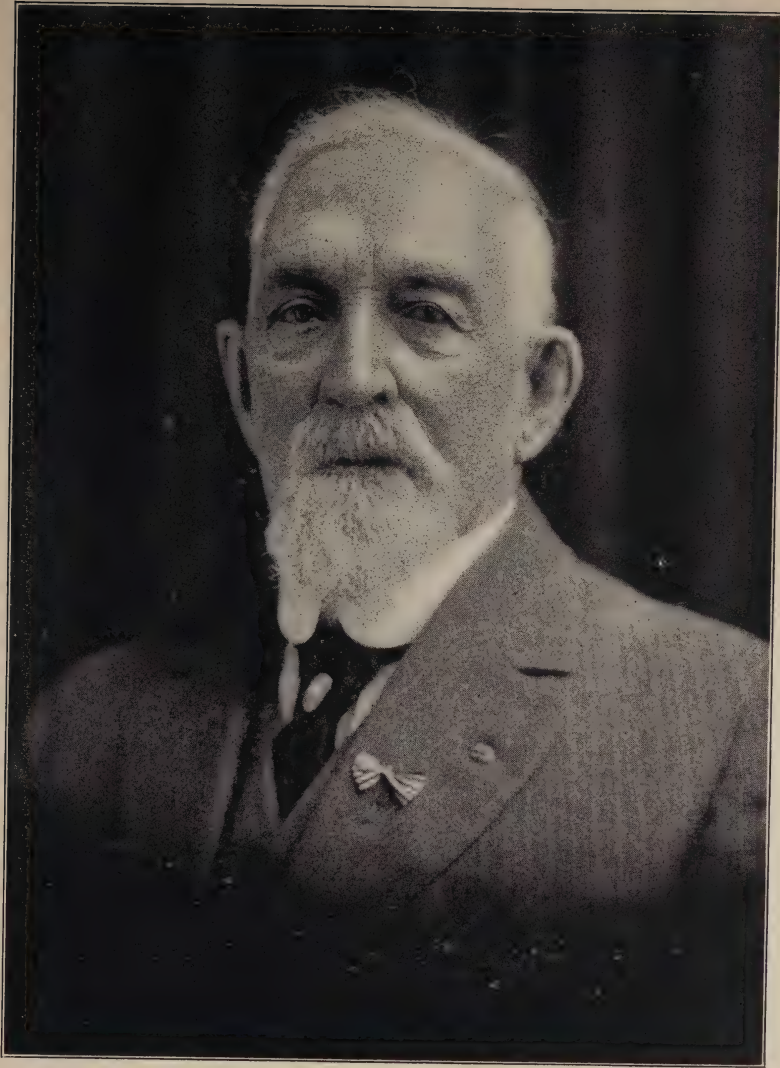
W. J. Liechty, who is engaged in the banking business at Manson, Iowa; C. A. Liechty, who is a train dispatcher on the Santa Fe railroad, and Dr. E. J. Liechty, the subject of this sketch, who was reared in his native county and there attended the common schools, later taking a course in Drake University, from the medical department of which he was graduated in 1905, having made an excellent record there. Soon thereafter he began practicing his profession at Mitchell, South Dakota, where he remained five years, enjoying a good practice. In 1912 he located in Kingsley, this county, where he has since remained and has enjoyed a wide patronage, having met with excellent success as a general practitioner. He is still a diligent student of all that pertains to his profession.

On January 1, 1907, Doctor Liechty was married to Abigail Edwards, who was born and reared in Polk county, a daughter of H. C. and Ruth (Stratton) Edwards, the former of whom was a farmer and now lives in Pomona, California. Mrs. Liechty is a graduate nurse, having completed her training in that profession at the Samaritan Hospital at Sioux City and for three years before her marriage was engaged as a private nurse. Two children have been born to Doctor Liechty and wife, namely: Jack and Joe. Doctor Liechty is a member of the Plymouth County Medical Society and of the Iowa State Medical Society. He belongs to Cosmos Lodge No. 470, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, and takes a warm interest in Masonic affairs.

JAMES J. DAVIS.

Now that the "sunset of life" is upon the veterans of the Union army the latter are continuously marching across the Great Divide to join the great "phantom army" of the Silent Land. We of the younger generation should accord them every courtesy and honor and prove our gratitude for what they achieved for us. One of the worthy number of these veterans in Plymouth county is James J. Davis, a retired farmer of Kingsley.

James J. Davis was born at Brooklyn, New York, August 23, 1843, a son of James and Jane (Bell) Davis. The father came to the United States from the British Isles when about seven years old with his sisters. He spent the rest of his life in this country, dying in Whiteside county, Illinois, in April, 1861. He was a weaver by trade and worked many years in New York City and adjacent towns. His brother-in-law, John Bell, was superintendent of one of the woolen mills there for over forty years. At the time



JAMES J. DAVIS.

the woolen mill at Westchester, New York burned, in 1849, James J. Davis started West, intending to make the overland journey with the gold seekers to California, but upon reaching Whiteside county, Illinois, he was so favorably impressed with the country that he decided to remain there. He made the trip by way of the Hudson river and the Great Lakes, on a boat to Chicago. He walked to Dixon, Illinois, where the United States land office was located. He bought out a squatter, who had settled on eighty acres, paying him twenty-five dollars for his right. He improved the land and lived there from 1850 to 1861. His son, George Davis, now lives on the place. The father became owner of two hundred acres. He had the following children: Albert, Robert, James J., John, George, Eliza, Rebecca, Mary, and Sarah.

James J. Davis grew up on the home farm in Illinois, where he worked hard when a boy. He attended the pioneer district schools. In 1863 he enlisted for service in the Civil War, in the Forty-seventh Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry, in which he served in the Army of the Cumberland until 1866. He participated in a number of important engagements, including those of Dalton, Calhoun, Spring Place and Pollen Ferry. At the expiration of his three years of service Mr. Davis was honorably discharged and returned home. He remained in Illinois, engaged in farming, until about 1875, when he came to Iowa, where he lived until 1880, in which year he bought an eighty-acre farm in Carroll county. He sold out and came to Plymouth county, where he purchased one hundred and sixty acres in Union township, for which he paid five dollars an acre. He farmed there until 1884, when he sold out and bought a half section in Henry township, where he continued general farming until 1905, when he retired and moved to Kingsley where he has since resided. Mr. Davis is a stockholder in the Farmers' Elevator Company at Kingsley.

In 1873 James J. Davis was married to Sarah Fieldsend, and to that union the following children were born: Benjamin, who is engaged in the railway mail service; John F., who was a soldier in the Twenty-third Infantry, United States Army, and served during the Philippine insurrection; Charles, who was a soldier in the Sixteenth Infantry, United States army, and also served during the suppression of the Philippine insurrection; Walter, who is a plumber and lives in Kingsley; George, who is an examining sergeant of militia at Indianapolis, Indiana; Lillie, Lucy, Minnie and Stella. The mother of these children died in 1907 and on April 12, 1910, Mr. Davis married Mrs. Sarah J. (Pugh) Swalley, who was born in Crawford county, Ohio, January 29, 1855. She was the widow of Frank Swalley, a farmer of Craw-

ford county, Ohio, who later moved to Wyandotte county, that state, where Mr. Swalley died in 1899. To Mr. and Mrs. Swalley but one child was born, Fordyce, who married Clark Patton and lived at Grand Rapids, Ohio.

While Mr. Davis was living in Henry township he took an active interest in public affairs. Politically, he is a Republican and he served as assessor of Henry township, also as a member of the township board and the school board. He is a member of the Congregational church.

JOHN SULLIVAN.

John Sullivan, a well-known and substantial retired farmer of Le Mars, is a native of the Emerald Isle, but has been a resident of this country since he was sixteen years of age. He was born in County Cork, Ireland, in 1841, son of Timothy and Catherine Sullivan, both natives of Ireland, farming people, who moved to England when their son, John, was five years old, the mother dying there shortly afterward. In 1857 Timothy Sullivan and his sons, Michael and John, the latter then being about sixteen years of age, came to America, landing with about five dollars their sole monetary possession. Locating at Syracuse, New York, Timothy Sullivan and his sons engaged in farm labor in that vicinity for a time and then moved to Illinois, locating in the neighborhood of Blue Island, now a part of the city of Chicago, and there Timothy Sullivan died in 1866.

After locating in Illinois, John Sullivan for some time worked as a farm hand and after awhile acquired a sufficient fund to buy a farm of eighty acres near Blue Island, paying for the same thirty-two dollars an acre. He married in 1866 and later sold his "eighty" and moved to LaSalle county, Illinois, where he bought a tract of two hundred and forty acres, on which he lived until 1886, when he sold out there and came over into Iowa, locating in O'Brien county, where he bought three hundred and twenty acres of land, five miles north of Granville, for ten dollars an acre, later increasing his holdings there until he became the owner of eight hundred acres of land. Some time afterward he traded three hundred and twenty acres of his O'Brien county for five hundred and thirty-three acres in America township, this county, and in 1898 he retired from the farm and moved to Le Mars, where he has since made his home. In addition to the extensive land holdings of Mr. Sullivan mentioned above, he also is the owner of a farm of one hundred and ninety-eight acres in Sioux county, this state,

and a farm of four hundred and twenty acres in Pipestone county, Minnesota, being very properly regarded as one of the most substantial residents of Plymouth county.

It was in 1866 that John Sullivan was united in marriage to Elesia O'Hara, a daughter of Thomas O'Hara and wife, and of the children born to that union five are still living, Frank T., George, who married Mary Delaney and has two children, Vera and Vivian; Ann, who married Thomas Abbott and has one child, Myrtle; Mayme, who married Frank Kennedy and has two children, Hazel and Francis, and Cora, who married Thomas Flaherty and has one child. Mrs. Sullivan died in June, 1910. Mr. Sullivan is a member of the Catholic church and his children were reared in that faith. In his political views he is an "independent" Democrat and during his residence in O'Brien county was for a number of years road supervisor and school director in his district.

JAMES TRACY.

James Tracy, a well-known and substantial farmer and landowner of Sioux township, this county, is a native of the Dominion of Canada, but has been a resident of this state since he was fifteen years of age and is therefore counted among the real pioneers of this section. He was born on a farm near the city of Toronto on December 24, 1857, son of William and Bridget (Gilfoil) Tracy, both natives of Ireland, who became pioneers of Plymouth county and here spent their last days.

William Tracy was born in County Tipperary in Ireland and there grew up to the life of the farm. He married Bridget Gilfoil, who was born in the neighboring county of Queens, and not long afterward the pair emigrated to Canada and settled on a farm near Toronto, where they remained as tenant farmers for fourteen years, at the end of which time William Tracy bought a farm there, but in 1872 sold the same and with his family came to the United States, proceeding on out to Iowa, and arrived at Sioux City on May 10 of that year. There the family provided themselves with a team and wagon and the essential provisions for the establishment of a pioneer home and came on up the Sioux valley to land in Sioux township, this county, which William Tracy had previously bought, and there they settled down to make a new home. That farm was about a half section of land and the same had been partly broken and had on it a set of

buildings, including a frame house for a dwelling and an old log structure that formerly had been occupied as a stockade by soldiers during the time of the Indian troubles. That old frame house is still standing, the oldest house in Plymouth county, and is in a good state of repair. The farm was bounded on the west by the Sioux river and presently became developed into one of the most attractive places in that part of the county. There Mrs. Bridget Tracy spent the rest of her life, her death occurring when she was sixty-three years of age. William Tracy survived for some years, his death occurring at the home of his son, the subject of this sketch, on the adjoining farm, he then being at the age of seventy-five years. Both he and his wife were earnest members of the Catholic church, having been among the founders of the Catholic church at Jefferson, and their children were reared in the faith of that church. There were ten of these children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the ninth in order of birth, the others being as follow: Patrick, who left home in the days of his young manhood and never thereafter was heard from by his family; John, who died in the neighboring county of Union, over the river in South Dakota, in 1894, at the age of forty-eight years; Mary, widow of Henry Barrett, now living at Hawarden, in the neighboring county of Sioux; Michael, a Plymouth county farmer, who died on August 27, 1913; William J., a farmer, living in Sioux township, this county; Katherine, who married Michael Molloy and lives at Center, this state; Thomas, who died in the state of Washington; Margaret, who married Richard Molloy and died in Union county, South Dakota, and Bridget, who married Thomas Keegan and died years ago.

James Tracy was about fifteen years of age when he came to this county with his parents in 1872 and he has lived there ever since, thus having been a witness to and a participant in the development of this region since pioneer days. During the early years of his residence here he helped his father and his brothers in the labors of developing the home place and presently acquired a tract of one hundred and seventy-four acres just over the river in Union county, which his father and his brother helped him to "break," and there he "batched" for a year, at the end of which time, in 1881, he married and there he and his wife began housekeeping. Two years later, however, they moved across the river and Mr. Tracy rented a place in Sioux township, on which he made his home for eleven years, at the end of which time he rented the Doctor Jenkins farm of four hundred acres and there lived for three years, or until 1906, in which year he bought a tract of one

hundred and twenty acres in section 19 of Sioux township, on which he ever since has made his home and where he and his family are now very pleasantly situated. Mr. Tracy still owns his farm in Union county and is also the owner of some town lots in Akron. In addition to his general farming he has for years been more or less engaged in the raising of high-grade live stock and has done very well. He is a Republican and gives a good citizen's attention to local political affairs, but has not been a seeker after public office.

It was in 1881 that James Tracy was united in marriage to Mary Patten, who was born at Galena, Illinois, a daughter of James and Bridget (McCormack) Patten, who became early settlers in Union county, South Dakota, and to this union nine children have been born, Philip, Mary, James, Francis, Joseph, Gertrude, Loretta, Emmet and Stanislaus. The Tracys are members of the Catholic church, Mr. and Mrs. Tracy having been among the founders of the church at Westfield, and the family gives earnest support to the local parish as well as to general good works of the community.

FRANK A. POST.

Frank A. Post, one of the most prominent and successful business men of Le Mars, was born in Postville, Wisconsin, on August 13, 1866, the son of Gilbert and Loiza (Hemphrey) Post.

Gilbert Post was born in the state of New York and there received his education in the public schools and grew to manhood. As a young man he came to Wisconsin, where he purchased a farm and in connection with his work as a general farmer conducted a general store. In honor to his progressive spirit, the town of Potsville was named in his honor. It was there that he remained in business for many years, but in 1876 he moved to Monroe, Wisconsin, where he remained until 1883, when he left his home in Wisconsin and came to Iowa, where he lived a retired life, until the time of his death on July 6, 1888. After the death of her husband, Loiza Post moved to Pasadena, California, where she died. Mr. and Mrs. Post were always active in the work of promoting the best interests of the community in which they lived, and were held in the highest regard and esteem by all. They were the parents of five sons, George H., Owen C. (deceased), Oren G. (deceased), Albert B. and Frank A.

Frank A. Post was reared on the home place in Wisconsin, received his

education in the public schools of Monroe, that state, and was graduated from the high school of that place. In 1883, at the age of seventeen, he came to Iowa with his parents and has since made Plymouth county his home.

On September 15, 1898, Frank A. Post was united in marriage to Eva M. Moore, daughter of M. H. Moore of Dubuque, Iowa, who is a brother of M. A. Moore, of Le Mars, and to this union three children have been born, Foster M. and Stanley D., both of whom are at home, and Albert B., who died on August 27, 1915. Mr. and Mrs. Post are prominent in the social life of the community and are held in high regard by their neighbors and friends.

On locating at Le Mars, F. A. Post was for some time employed by the Moore-Loring Company, dealers in lumber and coal. This company existed until 1888, when George E. Loring retired, after which time the business was conducted by M. A. Moore. F. A. Post continued to work for M. A. Moore and in 1891 purchased an interest in the business, the firm continuing to transact business under the firm name of M. A. Moore & Company until June 12, 1905, at which time the business was incorporated under the name of the M. A. Moore Company. In addition to his interests in the lumber and coal company, Mr. Post is also associated with S. W. Spotts in the drug business, under the firm name of Spotts & Post, the firm having existed for the past twenty-one years. Mr. Post devotes the greater part of his time to the interests of the lumber company, where he has his office.

Faternally, F. A. Post is a Scottish Rite Mason, a Knight Templar and a member of the local lodge of the Knights of Pythias.

M. C. McMULLEN.

M. C. McMullen, a well-known and substantial retired farmer, now living at Le Mars, and one of the most extensive landowners in this part of the state, is a native of the great Empire state, but has been a resident of this state since he was twenty years of age. He was born on a farm in Orange county, New York, May 18, 1858, son of Calvin and Sarah McMullen, both natives of that same state, farming people, who spent all their lives there. Calvin McMullen and his wife were the parents of nine children, seven of whom are still living, the subject of this sketch being the only one living in Iowa.

Reared on the home farm, M. C. Mullen received his schooling in the schools of his native county and remained on his father's farm until he was twenty years of age, when he decided to come West and "grow up with the country." He came to Iowa and located in Franklin county, being compelled to borrow ten dollars to pay his fare on the last stages of his journey. There he began working as a farm hand, receiving wages in the sum of fifteen dollars a month, and continued thus engaged for more than five years. In the meantime, in 1882, Mr. McMullen bought a quarter of a section of land in the neighborhood of Rock Valley, in Sioux county, paying for the same eight dollars and fifty cents an acre, and in 1884 located on that tract and proceeded to develop and improve the same. He broke the sod, planted a grove, erected a set of buildings and otherwise improved the place, remaining there for five years, at the end of which time he sold out and moved to Lyon county, where, one and one-half miles north of Larchwood, he bought a tract of three hundred and twenty acres, which he proceeded to develop, and remained there, building up the place, until 1891, in which year he moved to a quarter section adjoining Larchwood, which he had bought in the meantime. In the fall of the next year, 1892, he married and in 1894 moved to another farm he had bought, lying south of Larchwood, and there he remained until his retirement from the active labors of the farm and removal to Le Mars in 1911. In the meantime Mr. McMullen continued to prosper in his farming operations and gradually extended his land holdings until he became the owner of eleven hundred and twenty acres of choice land in this state and a tract of three hundred and twenty acres in Minnesota. Upon moving to Le Mars, Mr. McMullen became engaged in the automobile business in partnership with his brother-in-law, R. J. Moir, under the firm name of Moir & McMullen, and was thus engaged for three years, since which time he has been living retired. Mr. McMullen is a Republican and has ever given his close attention to civic affairs. During his residence in Lyon county he was for about fifteen years a member of the county board of supervisors and for some time was chairman of the board.

It was on November 30, 1892, that M. C. McMullen was united in marriage to Lucy Moir, daughter of Alexander and Jessie Moir, and to this union six children have been born, Jesse, Allen, Dewey, Iva, Pearl and Lloyd, all of whom are at home. The McMullens are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and Mr. McMullen has ever taken a warm interest in church work. During his residence in Lyon county he was trustee of his local church and now occupies the same position in the Methodist Episcopal

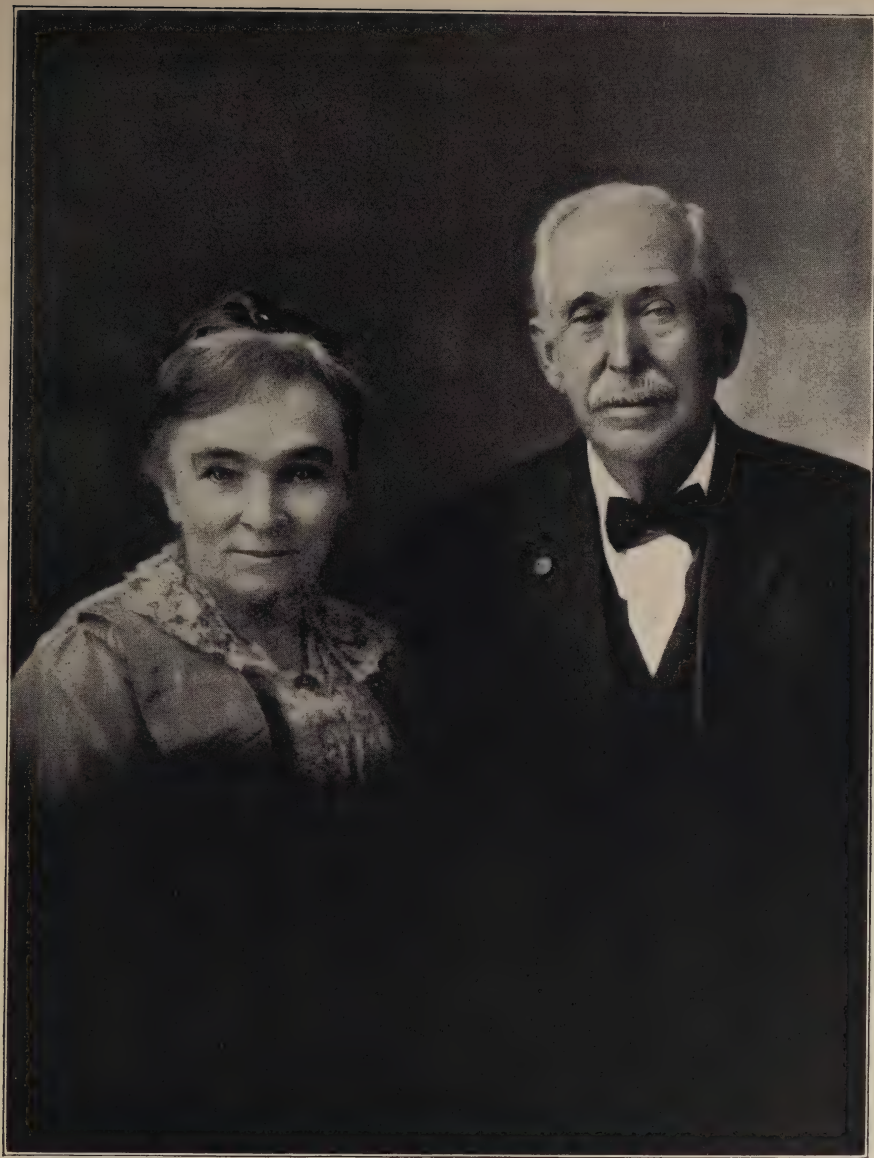
church at Le Mars. When the congregation of that church set about the erection of its present handsome new church edifice, Mr. McMullen was made a member of the building committee of the same and in that capacity performed a valuable service in behalf of the church. On another page in this volume there is presented a reproduction of a photograph of the Methodist Episcopal church at Le Mars, one of the finest church buildings in north-western Iowa.

JOHN C. RUBLE.

Examples that impress force of character on all who study them are worthy of record in the annals of history wherever they are found. By a few general observations the biographer hopes to convey in the following paragraphs, succinctly and yet without fulsome encomium, some idea of the worth as a man and citizen of John C. Ruble, Civil War veteran and for many years a leading farmer of Plymouth county, now living retired in Le Mars.

John C. Ruble was born in Mifflin county, Pennsylvania, December 17, 1842, a son of George and Mary (McClanahan) Ruble, both natives of Mifflin county, Pennsylvania, where they grew up, were married and established their home on a farm on which they spent the rest of their lives. Four children were born to them: Jacob, who died in Stockton, Illinois, in the fall of 1915, after spending his active life there as a farmer and stockman; Margaret, who is the widow of Benjamin Jeffers, of Phoenix, Arizona; John C., the subject of this sketch, and George, a retired farmer, of St. Croix Falls, Wisconsin.

John C. Ruble grew up on the home farm and attended the common schools, remaining at home until April 17, 1861, when he enlisted in Company C, First Pennsylvania Cavalry, and was at once sent to Harrisburg, his state capital, and thence on to Washington, D. C., and was soon in the ranks of the great Army of the Potomac, participating in all the big battles and skirmishes of the same, including Gettysburg and the Wilderness. He was orderly for General Meade at Appomattox. On July 27, 1864, he was shot through the left lung and was sent to a hospital six miles from Richmond and later to David's Island, twenty miles north of New York City, where he remained until December 1, 1864, when he was transferred to Chestnut Hill Hospital at Germantown, Pennsylvania. He was kept there until January 9, 1865, when he joined his company at Petersburg, Virginia, and continued in the service until the close of the war, under Gen. Phil Sheridan.



JOHN C. RUBLE AND WIFE

After a most creditable record as a soldier he was honorably discharged at Cloud's Mills, near Alexandria, June 25, 1865, after which he went back to Livingston, Pennsylvania, where he remained until the spring of 1866. He then went to Jo Daviess county, Illinois, where he engaged in farming for thirteen years. In 1878 he wended his way farther west, locating in Plymouth county, Iowa, thirteen miles west of Le Mars, in Johnson township, where he first purchased eighty acres of wild land, which he cleared and improved, and prospering by hard work and good management, he added to his original purchase until he now owns a valuable and well-improved farm of four hundred acres. He also owns city property in Le Mars. He has always engaged in general farming and has raised and fed a good deal of live stock. He lived in Akron ten years, and before permanently establishing his home in Le Mars, he lived in the latter place for a short time at intervals.

Mr. Ruble has been twice married. In November, 1877, he was married to Susan A. Ruble, of Jo Daviess county, Illinois, a daughter of John and Julia Ruble, natives of Pennsylvania, who settled in Jo Daviess county, Illinois, on a farm where they spent the rest of their lives. The death of Mrs. Susan Ruble occurred on July 21, 1915. She was a member of the Women's Relief Corps and of the Methodist Episcopal church. Eleven children were born to John and Julia Ruble, only four of whom are living at this writing, namely: Lizzie J., who lives in Ohio; Nancy Gill, who lives in Le Mars; Rachael, who lives in Plymouth county, and John, who lives in Armstrong, Illinois. On July 26, 1916, Mr. Ruble was married to Mrs. Virginia E. Hord, widow of James Hord, and a daughter of Dr. M. B. and Martha Allison. Her father was for many years a physician of Washington, D. C. Her mother was a native of Alexandria, Virginia.

To John C. Ruble and his first wife, two children were born, namely: Julia A., who is the wife of Samuel Maben, of Westphalia, Kansas, and John W., who married Ellen Naginey and lives in Johnson township, this county, in the village of Ruble, which was built on Mr. Ruble's farm and was named after him. Politically, Mr. Ruble is a Republican. He has been active and influential in public affairs and has held several county and township offices, always discharging his duties with credit and satisfaction. He belongs to the Grand Army of the Republic at Akron, and is a Royal Arch Mason and a Knight Templar, affiliated with the blue lodge at Le Mars, and is also a noble of the Ancient Arabic Order of Nobles of the Mystic Shrine at Sioux City. Mr. Ruble is one of the best-known men in Plymouth county and is highly respected by all.

JOHN P. KLEINSCHNITZ.

By his own efforts John P. Kleinschnitz, now living retired in his comfortable home in Le Mars, forged to the front from an unpromising early environment and became well fixed from a material standpoint, for many years ranking among the progressive general farmers of Plymouth county. He was born in Putnam county, Illinois, July 16, 1853, a son of Christian and Rosa (Mechling) Kleinschnitz, both natives of Bavaria, Germany, where they spent their childhood, and who, while still single, came to America, on the same ship, in 1849. They located in Putnam county, Illinois, and were married there. The father rented land for some time, then bought a farm which he operated until 1867 when he moved to Mendota, LaSalle county, that state, where he bought a farm and lived there until his death in 1894. Later his widow came to Plymouth county and made her home with her son John P., until her death, September 8, 1897. To these parents three children were born, namely: Frank, who died in 1881; Mary, who married Fred Matern and lives in Plymouth county, and John P., the subject of this review.

John P. Kleinschnitz received his education in the common schools of Illinois. He assisted his father with the work on the farm and lived at home until 1878, after which he farmed two years for himself. In the fall of 1882, he bought one hundred and sixty acres in America township, this county, but during the following year he farmed with his brother-in-law. On June 11, 1887, he married Maggie Lanners, who was born in Luxemburg, a daughter of John and Ann Mary (Graff) Lanners, both also natives of Luxemburg, from which country they brought their family to America in 1873. They located in Dubuque county, Iowa, in 1884, and later lived in Sioux county for one year, at the end of which time they located in Union township, this county, whence they moved to Hartford, South Dakota, where they died. Their children were named as follow: Mat, who lives in Remsen township, this county; Mrs. John Gaylor, deceased; Michael, who lives in Bridgewater, South Dakota; Henry, who lives in Ada, Minnesota; Maggie, who married the subject of this sketch; Mary, the wife of John Burggren, of Humboldt, South Dakota; Annie, the wife of Peter Thiesen, of Le Mars; Lena, the wife of Nick Spielman, of Hartford, South Dakota; Lucy, the widow of Peter Spielman, of Hartford, South Dakota; John, who is farming at Emery, South Dakota, and Harry, deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Kleinschnitz have no children of their own, but have adopted a son, Patrick

Henry, and a daughter, Geneva, now the wife of Mary Fachman, of Sioux City.

After his marriage Mr. Kleinschnitz engaged in farming in America township until 1903, when he retired and removed to his present home in Le Mars. He owns a fine dwelling and three lots and still retains his fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres in America township. Mr. Kleinschnitz is a Democrat and served as trustees of America township, also as a member of the school board for several years. He belongs to St. Joseph's German Catholic church in Le Mars.

NICK HATZ.

Nick Hatz, a well-known resident of Remsen, was born in Luxemburg on January 31, 1876, the son of Peter and Margaret (Kneip) Hatz, both born in Luxemburg, where they received their education, grew to manhood and womanhood and were married. They continued to live in the land of their and there they died some years ago. Peter Hatz was a small landowner and conducted a general store in connection with his farm work. Mr. and Mrs. Hatz were active members of the Catholic church and took much interest in church work. They were the parents of eight children, four of whom are now living, Frank and Mary in their native land, and Martin and Nick in Plymouth county.

Nick Hatz received his education in the public schools of Luxemburg and there resided until he was seventeen years of age. Upon completing his schooling he engaged in farming and remained at home until after the death of his parents, when, in 1893, he came to America, locating at Sioux City, Iowa, where he was engaged in various occupations for seven years, at the end of which time he and his brother, Martin, engaged in the hotel and saloon business at Sioux City and continued in that business there for three years. They then moved to Remsen and purchased the Hoffman House, which they conducted for two years. The place was then sold to John Kauffmann and Nick Hatz engaged in the saloon business and continued thus engaged until 1913, when he sold his business and devoted his time to the automobile business, in which he became interested in 1911. He later disposed of that business and is now living a semi-retired life.

On February 16, 1909, Nick Hatz was united in marriage to Mary Arens, the daughter of Peter and Margaret (Haman) Arens. Peter Arens

was born in Luxemburg and came to the United States when but a child with his parents. They located in Jackson county, Iowa, and there he received his education in the public schools and grew to manhood on the home farm. He worked with his father on the farm and was also engaged by the day with the farmers of the neighborhood. In 1876 he and his wife came to Plymouth county and located on a farm in section 26 of Fredonia township. He at first rented land and later purchased eighty acres in section 28 of that township, which he later increased and became the owner of two hundred acres of excellent land. He later sold that farm and purchased two hundred acres in section 6 of Remsen township. He has always taken an active interest in local affairs and is now the chairman of the board of supervisors. He has served as township trustee, as a member of the school board and as road boss, and is held in the highest regard by all. He and his wife are members of the Catholic church. To them have been born two children, Mildred and Margaret, the former of whom died some years ago.

BARNEY MEYER.

It is not often that a man from the Southern states seeks a home in the Northland. Most of them prefer to stay under the sunny skies of Dixie. But those who have come to Plymouth county have become well established and are known as good citizens in every respect. One of this number is Barney Meyer, a retired farmer of Remsen.

Barney Meyer was born at Covington, Kentucky, October 24, 1851. He is a son of Barney and Theresa R. (Schelkman) Meyer, both natives of Germany, from which country they came as young people to America and married near Covington, Kentucky. The father worked out by the day there for some time and later came to Iowa and bought land in Dubuque county, where he followed farming the rest of his life. His wife also died there. They were parents of eight children, namely: Barney, the subject of this sketch; John, who is farming near Dyersville, Iowa; Harmon, a retired farmer of Dyersville; Henry, a retired farmer at Aurora, Iowa; Clem, who is engaged in farming near Dyersville, and Lewis, Mary and Sophia, deceased.

Barney Meyer grew up on the home farm, where he worked hard when a boy. He attended the common school and remained with his parents until his marriage on November 9, 1875, to Elizabeth Klostemann. She was born

in Westphalia, Germany, daughter of Barney and Mary Ann Klostemann, natives of Germany also. She was five years old when her parents brought her to America, the family locating in Dubuque county, Iowa, where they bought a farm and there the parents spent the rest of their lives. Following were their children: Casper, Frank, Barney, Elizabeth, Kate, Mary and Louise.

The following children have been born to Barney Meyer and wife: Barney, the third, who is farming at Andover, South Dakota; George, who is farming in Barnes county, North Dakota; Frank, who is operating the home-stead; Louis, who lives in Le Mars and is a traveling salesman; Edward, who also lives in Le Mars and is a traveling salesman; Fritz, who is farming at Madison, Minnesota; Henry, who lives at home; Dora, who is also with her parents, and Kate, the wife of D. Goergen, of Granville, Iowa. These children all had good common-school advantages.

After his marriage Mr. Meyer engaged in farming near Dyersville until 1888. In the spring of that year he located at Alton, Iowa, where he resided thirteen years on a farm; then farmed four years near Granville, nine years near Marcus and three years near Remsen; then located in the village of Remsen, buying a comfortable home, in which he now lives retired. He has been quite successful as a general farmer and stock raiser. Mr. Meyer is a Democrat, but has never been active in public affairs. He belongs to St. Mary's Catholic church at Remsen.

THOMAS RINEHART.

Thomas Rinehart, one of the prominent and well-known business men of Le Mars, was born at Champaign, Illinois, on March 31, 1871, and is the son of James I. and Elizabeth (Cornell) Rinehart.

Joel Rinehart, the paternal grandfather of Thomas Rinehart, was a native of Virginia, and was there educated and grew to manhood. His early life was spent with the planters and the slave-holders of that state. In time he himself became an owner of slaves, but later became a strong Abolitionist and removed to Illinois. He was always kind to his slaves, gave them much liberty and they were treated with much more consideration than those on many of the plantations. Joel Rinehart was never very heartily in favor of the institution of slavery and was happy when the time came for him to separate himself from the same. On moving to Illinois he took up

his residence on a farm, where he engaged in general farming and stock raising until the time of his death. He was a man of much prominence in the community in which he lived and was held in the highest regard and esteem by all who knew him.

James I. Rinehart was born in Virginia and there received his education in the public schools and grew to manhood. As a young man he engaged in the piano and organ business, at Champaign, Illinois, and at that work he engaged until the failing health of his father caused him to remove to the old home farm, after which he engaged in farming and continued to live in that vicinity until the time of his death. He in time became the owner of four hundred and eighty acres of land, all of which was under high cultivation and well improved, and he was recognized as one of the prominent and substantial men of the district. Mr. and Mrs. Rinehart were always active in the work of the Presbyterian church and were prominent in the social and church life of the community. Mr. Rinehart was an active member of the Free and Accepted Masons, and was a man in whom all had much confidence. Since the death of her husband, Mrs. Rinehart has lived at Decatur, Illinois. Mr. and Mrs. Rinehart were the parents of four children, Ida, of Decatur, Illinois; William, of near Bloomington, Illinois; Elizabeth, now deceased, and Thomas.

Thomas Rinehart received his education in the local public schools of Illinois and there grew to manhood. At the age of nineteen years he was united in marriage to Edith Wedrick and to that union two children were born, Fern and Lester. Some years after the death of Mrs. Edith Wedrick Rinehart, Mr. Rinehart was married to Louise Kindarvater, and to this union one child, Fern, has been born.

Thomas Rinehart remained in Illinois until 1898, when he came to Iowa and was engaged as a plumber for four years at Le Mars. He then established a business for himself at Storm Lake, Iowa, where he remained for six and a half years, at the end of which time he sold the business and returned to Le Mars, where he established his present plumbing business at 621 Main street. He now has an excellent business in plumbing and heating and is recognized as one of the well-established and prosperous men of the town. He is an expert workman in his line and because of his business-like and courteous methods he has the confidence and the respect of the entire community. His constant effort is to become conversant with the most modern and up-to-date methods in both the plumbing and the heating business.

Mr. Rinehart is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and of the Modern Woodmen of America, and takes an active part in the

affairs of both of these orders. He has always taken an active interest in the civic life of the community and has ever exerted his best efforts in behalf of the growth and development of his home town. He is progressive in his views, is a firm believer in permanent and substantial public improvements and is an advocate of the best system of public schools that it is possible to maintain. He and his family have long been prominent in the social and the business life of the community and are held in the highest regard by all who know them. They are a hospitable people and take much pleasure in the entertainment of their friends.

J. S. HOYT.

J. S. Hoyt, a prominent stock buyer at Le Mars and a well-known retired farmer of Plymouth county, now living at Le Mars, where he has made his home since the year 1900, is a native of the state of Ohio, born in the city of Cleveland on May 22, 1855, son of George C. and Roseland (Sears) Hoyt, the former of whom was born at Lee, Massachusetts, and the latter in Ohio, whose last days were spent at Aurora, Illinois.

George C. Hoyt was but a small boy when his parents moved from Massachusetts to Cleveland and in that city he grew to manhood and was married. In 1859 he moved to Aurora, Illinois, and there he and his wife spent the remainder of their lives.

It was in Aurora, to which place his parents had moved when he was about four years of age, that J. S. Hoyt was reared and grew to manhood, receiving his schooling in the public schools of that city and supplementing the same by a course in Jennings Seminary. As a young man he engaged in farming with his father and remained there after his marriage in 1876 until in November, 1880, when he and his wife came to Iowa and established their home in this county. Upon coming out here Mr. Hoyt rented a farm in section 10 of Union township and a few years later bought a farm of eighty acres in that same township, paying for the same six dollars and fifty cents an acre, and started in to improve and develop the same. Later he bought an additional quarter of a section of land in this county and a quarter section in Nebraska and prospered in his farming undertakings. For some time during his residence on the farm Mr. Hoyt also conducted a general store in the village of O'Leary, but when his store was destroyed by fire in 1898 he did not resume business, continuing, however, to operate his farms

until 1900, when he retired from the active labors of the farm and moved to Le Mars, where he ever since has been very successfully engaged in the buying and selling of live stock and has come to be known as one of the most enterprising stockmen in this part of the state. Mr. Hoyt is a Republican and during his residence in Union township served for some time as township trustee. He also has served for two years as a member of the city council in Le Mars and in other ways has given of his time and attention to local political affairs.

It was in 1876, while living in Illinois, that J. S. Hoyt was united in marriage to Sarah E. Pierce, a daughter of Ezekiel Pierce and wife, and to that union was born one child, a son, Harry C., who married Blanche Lee and has five children, James, William, Helen, Dorothy and Donald. Mrs. Sarah E. Hoyt died on March 7, 1912.

GEORGE J. DENNLER.

George J. Dennler, a well-known retired farmer of Merrill, this county, was born at LaPorte, Indiana, December 24, 1864, son of George and Anna R. (Morf) Dennler, natives of Switzerland, who there received their education in the public schools and spent the early years of their lives. At the age of eighteen, George Dennler came to the United States and on his arrival in this country proceeded directly to Indiana and there located at LaPorte, where he learned the blacksmith trade and worked at that trade for a number of years. He was there united in marriage to Anna R. Morf and continued to reside in that city until 1872, when he and his wife decided to locate in Iowa. They homesteaded eighty acres in Liberty township, this county, to which they later added and became the owners of four hundred and forty acres of splendid land. There Mr. Dennler engaged in general farming and worked at his trade until the time of his death.

Upon first locating on the farm, George Dennler built a small shack, in which the family lived for several years. A straw barn was built for the stock and a fine grove planted. In time the rude structures that sheltered the family and the stock were replaced by good and substantial buildings and the farm was developed into one of the best in the township. Mr. Dennler always took much interest in local affairs and had much to do with the civic life of the community. He served as school director of his district and as road boss for Liberty township. He was a progressive citizen

and did much in the way of advancing the interests of both the township and the county, and was held in high regard by all who knew him. He and his wife were the parents of five children, George J., Albert, Gus, Edward and Mrs. Mary Heiden.

George J. Dennler received his education in one of the first schools of Liberty township, and grew to manhood on the home farm, where as a lad he assisted his father, both on the farm and in the blacksmith shop. After completing his schooling he decided to engage in farming, and remained with his father until the latter's death. He later bought the old homestead of two hundred and eighty acres and continued in general farming and stock raising until 1912, keeping much stock and feeding the greater part of his grain on the farm. In 1912 he retired from the activities of farm life and moved to Merrill, where he now lives. During his active life he took much interest in local affairs, and served his township as trustee, school director and road boss. Politically, Mr. Dennler is identified with the Republican party, in which he is an active worker. He is an advocate of all public improvements that have a tendency to advance the best interests of the township and the county.

In February, 1891, George J. Dennler was united in marriage to Mary Heiden. Fraternally, he is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and of the Knights of Pythias.

J. C. HOKE.

J. C. Hoke, one of the well-known and successful business men of Merrill and cashier of the First National Bank of that city, was born at McConnellsburg, Pennsylvania, July 26, 1861, the son of George and Elizabeth (Steek) Hoke, both of whom were born and reared in Pennsylvania and there lived their lives. They were well-known in their home community, and were held in the highest regard and esteem by all who knew them.

J. C. Hoke received his education in the public schools of his native state and at Chambersburg College. Upon completing his schooling he decided to learn the painter's trade, at which he worked for some years. He later engaged in the mercantile business at McConnellsburg, where he remained for several years. He then sold his stock of goods and removed to Mandon, North Dakota, where he engaged in business for several years, at the end of which time he located in Clinton county, Iowa, for a year and

then purchased a large stock of merchandise at Chadwick, Illinois, where he remained until 1899, at the end of which time he returned to Iowa and was for a time in the First National Bank at Sioux City, after which he purchased an interest in the Farmers and Merchants Bank at Merrill, with which he ever since has been connected. This bank is now known as the First National Bank and is one of the substantial financial institutions of this section of the state. It was originally established in 1888. Since 1902 Mr. Hoke has been the cashier of the institution and has won the confidence and respect of the entire community by his courteous and business-like conduct.

On May 15, 1890, J. C. Hoke was united in marriage to Mamie Lamp, of Lanark, Carroll county, Illinois, a prominent young lady of that community. They are active members of the Reformed church and have long been prominent in the social and religious life of the community. Mr. Hoke is identified with the Democratic party, has ever taken much interest in local affairs and has had much to do with the civic and business life of his home town.

PETER RAVELING.

One of the many well-known and prominent retired farmers of Remsen is Peter Raveling, who was born in Germany on November 10, 1862, the son of Henry and Cecelia Raveling, also natives of Germany, who continued to reside in the land of their nativity until 1882, when they came to America. On their arrival in the United States they came to Iowa and Henry Raveling rented land and engaged in farming until the time of his death in 1905. Mr. and Mrs. Raveling were active members of the Evangelical Lutheran church, took much interest in church work and were held in the highest regard and esteem by all who knew them. They were the parents of ten children: John, William, Trinkka, Hilka, George, Jacob, Peter and three who died. The first three named are located in Minnesota.

Peter Raveling received his education in the public schools of his native land and there grew to manhood and engaged in farming until he came to America in 1880. On his arrival in the United States he came to Iowa and located in Remsen township, this county, where he worked as a farm hand for one year. After that time he and his father rented two hundred acres of land in the township for some years. After his marriage he moved to Marion township where he rented one hundred and twenty acres for two

years. He then moved to Meadow township, where he rented two hundred and forty acres and there he remained for twenty-seven years, engaged in general farming and stock raising. In 1916 he moved to Remsen, where he purchased seven and one-half acres of land and retired from the larger duties of farm life.

In 1883 Peter Raveling was united in marriage to Clara Freis, and to that union eight children were born, Henry, George, Cecelia, Mary, Jacob, Hilka, Clara and Cecelia. George Raveling married Emma Struble and has one child, Orville. Cecelia married Andrew Willerson and has one child, Lester. The rest of the children are still single. After the death of Mrs. Clara (Freis) Raveling, Peter Raveling was united in marriage to Alvena Stiffen, the daughter of James and Catherine (Rohweder) Stiffen, and to this union two children were born, both of whom are deceased.

Alvena (Stiffen) Raveling is a native of Grundy county, Iowa. Her parents were both natives of Germany, where they received their education. In their youth they came to the United States, first locating in Scott county, Iowa, and later in Tama county, where they were married. After their marriage they went to Grundy county, where the father rented land, and there they now live. They were the parents of eleven children, six of whom are now living.

CORNELIUS LUDWIG.

Cornelius Ludwig, a native of Luxemburg, Europe, and a well-known farmer and stockman of Remsen township, this county, was born on October 16, 1873, the son of Theodore and Maggie Ludwig, who also were born in Luxemburg and there received their education and were married. Theodore Ludwig was a small farmer and he and his wife continued to live for some time in their native land after their marriage, before they decided to come to America, where they might have better opportunities to obtain a home for themselves and their family. On their arrival in the United States they came direct to Iowa and located in Dubuque county. There Theodore Ludwig rented a farm and engaged in farming for a number of years. In 1907 he came to Plymouth county and had a home of twenty-five acres in Remsen township. In 1910 he was killed by an Iowa Central Railway train at Remsen. His widow died eighteen months later. They were the parents of twelve children, eight of whom are now living in Plymouth county: Cornelius, John, James, Martin, Frank, Michael, Mrs. William Tentinger

and Mrs. May Tentinger. John lives one mile south of Remsen. James lives in Remsen township and Martin lives five miles south of Remsen. Frank lives at Oyens and Michael lives one-half mile south of the town of Remsen. One died and three live in Dubuque county. Theodore and Maggie Ludwig were members of the Catholic church and were long prominent in the social and the religious life of the community, where they were held in the highest regard by all who knew them.

Cornelius Ludwig received his schooling in the public schools of Luxemburg and was eighteen years of age when he came to America. On his arrival in this country he came direct to Iowa and located in Dubuque county, where he worked as a farm hand for a time, and then was engaged as a clerk in a store, later engaging in farming, and was thus engaged there until 1896, when he came to Plymouth county and rented a farm six miles east of Remsen. Four years later, in partnership with his brother-in-law, Frank Beelner, he purchased one hundred and twenty acres in Marion township, which they developed and improved and later sold, and purchased thirty-seven acres near Remsen. Mr. Ludwig continued in the business of buying and selling land until 1912, when he purchased two hundred and twenty acres in the northwest corner of Remsen township, where he engaged in general farming and stock raising, paying particular attention to the breeding and the raising of fine Belgian horses and high-grade Shorthorn cattle. He now has the greater part of his farm in pasture, where roam some of the best horses and cattle in the county.

In February, 1898, Cornelius Ludwig was united in marriage to Mary Peters, daughter of William Peters and wife, and to this union eleven children have been born, Maggie, Florence, Virginia, Anna, John, Matilda, Henry, Clara, Irene, Leona and Hildagard. Mr. and Mrs. Ludwig are members of the Catholic church, take much interest in church work and are prominent in the social and the religious life of the community. They belong to the local organizations of the church and are prominent in the charity and reform work of their home community.

Cornelius Ludwig is identified with the Democratic party, has had much to do with the civic and the political life of the township and is now recognized as one of the substantial and successful residents of the county. When he came to the state from his home in Luxemburg, he had but ten cents. By hard work and close application to business he has risen to his present position as one of the influential men of the township and his farm home, "East View Stock Farm," is one of the finest in the community.

CHARLES L. ROSBURG.

One of the well-known and prominent retired farmers of Remsen is Charles L. Rosburg, who was born at Davenport, on March 1, 1855, the son of Charles H. and Mary (Kart) Rosburg, natives of Holstein, Germany, who continued to live in the land of their nativity until 1854, when they decided to come to America. On their arrival in the United States they came direct to Iowa and located at Davenport. As a young man, Charles H. Rosburg learned the shoemaker's trade and he worked at his trade at Davenport until 1861, when he removed to Benton county, where he continued at his work and later purchased a farm. He developed and improved the place and there engaged in general farming until 1893, when he moved to a farm he had purchased near Sibley, and there he lived until the time of his death in 1895, at the age of eighty-one years. After the death of her husband, Mrs. Rosburg sold the farm and moved to Chandler, Minnesota, where she continued to live until the time of her death in 1912, at the age of eighty-one years. Mr. and Mrs. Rosburg were active members of the Lutheran church, always took much interest in church work and were prominent in the social and religious life of the community, where they were held in the highest regard and esteem by all who knew them. They were the parents of nine children, Charles L., George, Lewis, Bertha, Albert, Herman, John, Henry and Otto, all of whom are now deceased with the exception of Charles L., John and Henry. John Rosburg is a merchant at Newhall, Iowa, and Henry Rosburg is retired at Slayton, Minnesota.

Charles L. Rosburg received his education in the public schools of Benton county and grew to manhood on the home farm, where as a young man he assisted his father with the farm work. He remained at home until he was twenty-one years of age, after which for a time he worked for others as a farm hand. On February 28, 1879, he was married to Mary Sagner, who was born in Holstein, Germany, and who came with her parents to America in 1868. The father settled in Benton county, Iowa, where he purchased a farm and where he engaged in general farming and stock raising until 1893, when he moved to Lake Wilson, Minnesota. He later lived with Mr. Rosburg for a short time and there he and his wife died two months apart, in 1905, his death having occurred on June 30 and hers on April 30. Mr. Sagner was one of the well-known and successful men of his county and he and his wife were among the prominent members of the social and the religious life of the district. They were the parents of three children,

Fritz and Lizzie, who are living at Lake Wilson, and Mary, the wife of Mr. Rosburg.

To Charles L. and Mary Rosburg have been born four children, Louis, Gustave, Ella and Lewis. Louis Rosburg is a farmer at Garretson, South Dakota. Gustave Rosburg, who is engaged in farming on the home place, married Anna Erdman and has one child, Lisle. Ella Rosburg became the wife of Fred Erdman and to them were born three children, Erline, now deceased, Ranville and Merlin. They live at Luverne, Minnesota. Lewis Rosburg is unmarried and is at home.

Soon after their marriage, Charles L. Rosburg and wife located in Benton county, where Mr. Rosburg engaged in general farming until 1884, when they came to Plymouth county. Here they purchased a farm of one hundred and twenty acres in section 10 of Remsen township. The place at that time was but partly developed and was without improvements. Mr. Rosburg at once built a small house and began the task of developing his farm. He was successful and later increased his holdings to one hundred and sixty acres and improved his place with substantial and modern buildings. He was interested in good horses, Aberdeen Angus cattle and Poland China hogs and became known as one of the substantial farmers and stockmen of the township. Mr. Rosburg always took an active interest in local affairs and for twenty-one years was trustee of his home township and for fifteen years served on the school board, being a member of the board at the time the new school house was built in Remsen. He was always a strong advocate of the best of schools and the highest class of public improvements and devoted the same careful attention to his official duties that he did to his own private affairs. Being a man of ability and excellent judgment, his advice and influence were often sought in matters that pertained to the interests of both the township and the county. For the past three years Mr. Rosburg has been road supervisor of Remsen township.

In 1909 Charles L. Rosburg and wife retired from the activities of the life on the farm and moved to Remsen, where they built a beautiful two-story, nine-room house, which is modern in every respect. The house is situated on a tract of four acres of land and is regarded as one of the most substantial homes in the city. In addition to their home place they own another residence property, situated on two acres of land in Remsen. Mr. and Mrs. Rosburg had but little financial support when they began life as young married people, yet they were determined to make a home for themselves and their family. By hard work and close application to business they

have risen to positions of honor and influence in their community. They are active members of the German Lutheran church at Remsen and take much interest in church work. They take an active interest in the social and the religious life of the community and have always been interested in the development of the schools of the township and the county. They have been indulgent parents and have given their children good educations. They are among the most hospitable people in the city and are held in the highest regard. Their lives have been well spent and they have accomplished much, not only for themselves and their family, but for the community in general.

R. M. FIGG, D. D. S.

R. M. Figg, a well-known and successful dentist of Le Mars, was born in Johnson county, Iowa, on October 15, 1883, the son of John P. and Emma (Tyler) Figg, now prominent residents of Iowa City, where they are well known in the social and the religious life of the community. John P. Figg is engaged in the razor and lock business, and is recognized as one of the substantial business men of the town. He has always taken much interest in the civic life of the community and has ever exerted his influence for the growth and advancement of his home city. Mr. and Mrs. Figg are active members of the Christian church and take much interest in church and reform work. They are the parents of five children, R. M., Irene, Walter, Edith and Joseph.

R. M. Figg received his primary education in the public schools of Iowa City and later attended the Iowa State University. After completing his dental work in Drake University in 1910, he engaged in the practice of his profession at Le Mars, where he is now located. Shortly after completing his college work, Doctor Figg was united in marriage to Josephine Novotny and they have a beautiful home at 1512 Main street, Le Mars. They are prominent members of the Congregational church and have long been active in the church and the social life of the community, where they are held in the highest regard. Doctor and Mrs. Figg are hospitable people and take much pleasure in the entertainment of their friends, their home often being the scene of happy gatherings. They take much interest in the development of the moral and social conditions of their home town and are recognized as among the progressive people of the community.

Fraternally, Doctor Figg is a Scottish Rite Mason and a member of

the Modern Woodmen of America and of the Elks. He is active in the work of the orders to which he belongs and has much to do with the success of the local lodges. In addition to his church and fraternal work, he has always been interested in the civic life of the town and his efforts have always been for the betterment of his home community.

Doctor Figg is recognized as one of the leading dentists in this section of the state and has always devoted himself to the best interests of his profession. He has a well-equipped office in the German-American Bank building at 717 Main street. His constant aim is to give his patrons the advantages of the most advanced methods in his line of work. As a man he is held in the highest regard and as a dentist his work is recognized as of the highest class.

JOHN WITTKOP.

John Wittkop, one of the most progressive and substantial farmers in Plymouth county, owner of a fine farm of four hundred and forty acres in Marion township, is a native of Germany, born on a farm in the province of Westphalia, kingdom of Prussia, May 1, 1861, son of Ferdinand and Katherine Wittkop, natives of that same province, who were the parents of four children and who spent all their lives in their native country. Of these four children but two came to this country, the subject of this sketch and his brother, Anton.

Reared on the home farm in his native land, Westphalia, kingdom of Prussia, John Wittkop received his schooling in the schools of his home neighborhood and remained at home, farming, until his marriage in 1888, when he and his wife came to America and for awhile made their home in Minnesota. They then moved to Iowa and located at Remsen, in this county, where for two years Mr. Wittkop was employed working on the local section of the Iowa Central Railroad. Upon coming to this country he had about nine hundred dollars and his savings meanwhile accumulating he then, in 1891, was enabled to buy a farm of eighty acres in Marion township, paying for the same twenty-eight dollars an acre. He improved the place and there made his home for ten years, at the end of which time he sold it, but presently bought it back and has since added to the farm by purchase until now he is the owner of four hundred and forty acres of well improved and profitably cultivated land, the place being regarded as one of the best farms in the township. In addition to his general farming Mr. Wittkop gives consid-



erable attention to the raising of high-grade live stock and has done very well, feeding about one hundred and fifty hogs annually. Mr. Wittkop is a Democrat and gives a good citizen's attitude to local civic affairs, but has never been a seeker after public office.

As noted above, it was in 1888, the year of his arrival in America, that John Wittkop was united in marriage to Theresa Niggeman, a daughter of Clement Niggeman and wife, and to this union ten children have been born, Henry, John, Mary, Tony, George, Charles, William, Elizabeth, Theresa and Anna (deceased). The Wittkops are members of St. Kathryn's Catholic church at Oyens and Mr. Wittkop is a member of the Mutual Protective Society of Iowa, all members of the family taking a proper interest in parish affairs, as well as the general social activities of the community in which they live.

O. D. HART.

Although we are often prone to rail at our environments and our lack of early opportunities, often blaming these for our failures along the road toward the "heights," yet the contemplative mind must conclude that life is, after all, about what we make it. When but a boy O. D. Hart, well-known stockman of Le Mars, realized that man is master of his fate; that he is the captain of his own soul, and he set about in a laudable manner to shape his destiny on "these banks and shoals of time."

O. D. Hart is a son of David and Gertrude (Alling) Hart, natives of Massachusetts and of the state of New York, respectively. The father came West when a young man, locating in Wisconsin and engaged in farming in Jefferson county for many years. He came to Iowa in 1876 and died in this state on August 26, 1907. His family consisted of five children, four of whom are still living, O. D. Hart being the only one in Plymouth county.

O. D. Hart was born in Jefferson county, Wisconsin, April 7, 1859, and there he spent his boyhood and received his education in the common schools. After leaving school he took up athletics and was a sprint runner, making excellent records. Leaving his native state in 1876 he went to Cedar Rapids, Iowa, for a short time; thence to Waterloo and was a trainer for L. F. Walker's running team, which he coached and which under his guidance won the state championship for three years in succession. Later he went to Omaha, Nebraska, to coach a team that was named for J. M. Thurs-

ton; which team he took to New Orleans, Louisiana, in 1886, and won the world's championship. He also managed other teams at Pueblo, Colorado, and at Mankato, Minnesota, and his reputation as an athlete became international in the world of sports. In 1890 he turned his attention to breeding thoroughbred Jersey cattle and Poland China hogs at Kingsley. He was very successful from the first in this venture and soon became widely known to farmers and stockmen. In 1894 he sold one sow for fifteen hundred and fifty dollars, the highest price ever paid for an animal of that kind up to that time. At this writing he has a large herd of thoroughbred Jersey cattle and also of Poland China hogs. He has shipped his fine animals to nearly all the states in the Union, finding a very ready market for them, owing to their superior quality. He is the only breeder of Jersey cattle in Plymouth county, and was one of the first to breed Poland China hogs here. He has always been among the prize winners at the Iowa and South Dakota state fairs, carrying off all the prizes offered on such stock one year at the South Dakota fair, and also repeated this unusual record at the Iowa State fair at Sioux City the same year.

In 1884, at Albert Lea, Minnesota, O. D. Hart was married to Alice Huggins, a daughter of J. P. Huggins, and to their union six children have been born, namely: Raymond, who married Mary Miller and has one child, Robert; Marvel, who married George Stevens and has one child, Ruth; Oscar, John, Nelson and George, who are at home with their parents. Mr. Hart is a Republican.

KLEM KOLBECK.

Klem Kolbeck, one of the well-known retired farmers of Remsen, was born in Oldenberg, Germany, September 11, 1859, the son of Anton and Katherine Kolbeck, also natives of Germany, who spent their lives in the land of their nativity and there died some years ago. There Anton Kolbeck engaged in farming and was one of the well-known men of his community. He and his wife were active members of the Catholic church and took much interest in church work. They were the parents of two sons, Henry and Klem.

Klem Kolbeck received his education in his native country, and there grew to manhood and engaged in farming until he came to America. On his arrival in this country he came direct to Iowa and located in Dubuque county, where he worked as a farm hand for a time, after which he moved

to Carroll county, where he remained for two years on a farm. In 1881 he removed to Sioux county and there was engaged in breaking prairie land for two years, after which he rented a farm for some years. He then purchased eighty acres of land, at ten dollars per acre, developed and improved the same and there he resided until 1896, when he moved to Osceola county, where he became a successful farmer and stockman, becoming the owner of four hundred acres of excellent land, which he improved and brought under cultivation. Mr. Kolbeck took much interest in local affairs and was recognized as one of the influential men of the township in which he lived. He was progressive in his methods and believed in intensive farming, the highest degree of cultivation of the soil and in the keeping of the best of stock. In 1912 he retired from the farm and moved to Remsen, where he has since made his home.

In 1884 Klem Kolbeck was united in marriage to Elizabeth Krogman, and to that union three children were born, Frank, Elizabeth and Anna. After the death of Mrs. Elizabeth (Krogman) Kolbeck, Klem Kolbeck was united in marriage to Susan Wingen, daughter of Peter and Mary (Wolf) Wingen, and to this union three children have been born, Kate, Carrie and Josephine. Frank Kolbeck married Rosa Seivert. Elizabeth Kolbeck married William Seivert and has three children, Clements, Gertrude and Hilda. Anna Kolbeck married Herman Hatting and has one child, Klem. The other children are at home with their parents.

Mrs. Susan Wingen Kolbeck was born in Wisconsin, the native state of her parents, and there she received her education in the public schools and there grew to womanhood. Her father devoted his life to farming and late in life moved to South Dakota, where he died. The mother died in Wisconsin. They were the parents of nine children, Mrs. Kolbeck being the only one of the family in Plymouth county. Mr. and Mrs. Wingen were active members of the Catholic church and always took much interest in church work. They were prominent in the social and the religious life of the community in which they lived and were held in high regard. Mr. Wingen always took much interest in local affairs and had much to do with the welfare of his home township, long being recognized as one of the influential men of the community.

Klem Kolbeck came to the United States a mere boy and without financial support. He located in a strange land and among strangers and it was by his own efforts that he succeeded in making a success of life. By economy and perseverance he was enabled to make progress in his endeavor

to obtain a home and a farm where he might, in some degree, be independent. As a young man he won the confidence and the respect of those for whom he worked, and in later life he has always endeavored to hold the respect and the regard of those with whom he came in contact. His life has been an active and a successful one and he has accomplished much that is of value, not alone to himself and family, but to the community in general. He and his family are members of St. Mary's Catholic church at Remsen and take a proper part in the social and religious life of the community.

JOHN RAETZ.

A well-diversified farm will have the customary crops that are grown in the locality, together with the usual farm animals, and some one kind of crop or some one kind of animals should be singled out as a specialty; or, better, if he can do so, the farmer should specialize in several lines. That is what John Raetz, now living in retirement in Remsen, endeavored to do when he was an active farmer, and he therefore made a success of his work.

John Raetz was born in Baden, Germany, May 2, 1849. He is a son of John and Sophia (Gaynor) Raetz, also natives of Baden, where they spent their lives on a farm. They were parents of eight children, four of whom came to America, namely: Charles, who died in Benton county, Iowa; Rudolph, who is living near Marion, Indiana; Gottleib, who lives in Benton county, and John, the subject of this sketch, the latter of whom grew up on the home farm in Germany and there attended the common schools and served as a soldier in the German army three years, fighting during the Franco-Prussian War in a number of the big battles. He engaged in farming in Baden until 1878 when he and his brother, Rudolph, emigrated to America, locating near Newhall, in Benton county, Iowa, where he worked on a farm one year; then for the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad Company for some time. In 1883 he bought a farm in Benton county, but in 1883 came to Plymouth county and located on a farm in Meadow township. It had a small house on it, but very little improvements. He first bought eighty acres, but he added to that tract until he had a fine farm of two hundred and forty acres. He also owns a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Traverse county, Minnesota. Mr. Raetz brought his place in Meadow township up to a high state of cultivation and improve-

ment and continued to carry on general farming and stock raising there until the fall of 1915, when he retired from active life and moved to Remsen, where he owns a modern home.

In the spring of 1883 John Raetz was married to Kate Krahling, who was born in Hesse-Darmstadt, Germany, a daughter of J. P. and Elizabeth (Benzin) Krahling, who came to the United States in 1865, when their daughter, Kate, was one year old. They located in Benton county, Iowa, where they bought land, but later moved to Cedar Rapids, where they lived for twenty years and died there. Their children were named as follow: Louise, who lives in Benton county; Mary, deceased; William, who lives in Benton county; Henry, who also lives in that county; Anna, who lives at Cedar Rapids, and Kate, the wife of Mr. Raetz.

To Mr. and Mrs. Raetz eight children have been born, namely: John, who is farming at Griswold, Minnesota, married Mildred Vinette; Louis, who is farming at Griswold, Minnesota, married Syvilla Peterson; William, who is farming at Ashton, Iowa, married Amelia Billings and has one daughter, Wilma; Fred, who is farming the home place in Meadow township, married Margaret Kerpis; Emma, who married Earl Cardon, a blacksmith at Remsen, has two sons, Keith and Weldon; Minnie, who lives in Hawarden, Iowa, and Edward and Carl, at home. Mr. Raetz is a Democrat and has served as justice of the peace.

MICHAEL BRUCHER.

Michael Brucher, a well-known and prominent retired farmer of Remsen, was born in Luxemburg on February 10, 1861, the son of Anthony and Ann (Sinner) Brucher, also natives of Luxemburg, the former born on September 17, 1824, and the latter on March 15, 1827. There the father was engaged in farming and there the family continued to live until 1879, when Mr. and Mrs. Brucher decided to come to America. On their arrival they came direct to Plymouth county, where their son, Peter, had located in 1871. Anthony Brucher obtained one hundred and sixty acres of land in Marion township, to which he later added eighty acres. He developed and improved his farm and there successfully engaged in general farming and stock raising. His death occurred on February 6, 1896, and his widow died at Remsen on April 11, 1904. They were members of the St. Marys Catholic church at Remsen, having assisted in the organization and

the building of the local church, and always took much interest in church work. They were prominent in the social and the religious life of the community and were held in the highest regard. They were the parents of the following children: Peter, Catherine, Magdalena, Mary, Michael, Anthony, Margaret and Anna. Peter Brucher engaged in farming for a time after coming to this county, and was then a grain dealer and is now the proprietor of a hotel at Le Mars. Catherine Brucher married Nick Schroeder and lives at Oyens. Magdalena Brucher became the wife of Jacob Feidler and also lives at Oyens. Mary Brucher married Emil Forrette and lives in Oregon. Anthony Brucher died in 1894, Margaret Brucher married J. P. Funk and lives in Oregon and Anna Brucher married George Spaniol and also lives in the state of Oregon.

The elder Anthony Brucher was identified with the Democratic party and took much interest in local affairs. Being a man of excellent judgment and broad experience, he often was consulted on matters relating to the civic affairs of both the township and the county. He was progressive in his views, an excellent farmer and stockman and a patriotic citizen of his adopted country. He believed in substantial public improvements and in the maintenance of the best of schools, and was recognized as one of the substantial citizens of the township.

Michael Brucher received his education in the public schools of Luxemburg and in Iowa. He was about eighteen years old when he came to this county with his parents and was an able assistant to his father with the work on the farm. In 1891 he was united in marriage to Anna Heuertz, of St. Donatus, Iowa, and to that union the following children were born: Oliva, who died in infancy; Edwin J., a teller in the Commercial National Bank of Waterloo, Iowa, and Olga and Victor, at home with their parents. The children were educated in the common schools of the township and in the high school at Remsen, being graduates of the latter school.

After his marriage Michael Brucher remained on the home farm of two hundred and forty acres, where he engaged in general farming and stock raising, and gave much attention to the breeding and the raising of Hereford cattle, Belgian and Percheron horses and Poland China hogs. He sold his farm in 1912, since which time he has lived retired at Remsen. As a farmer Mr. Brucher was quite successful and his stock was among the best in the township, where he is recognized as one of the substantial and prominent residents. He is identified with the Democratic party and has long been active in local politics. For many years he was road supervisor and

the splendid condition of many of the roads of the community is due to his careful and systematic work.

Mrs. Anna Brucher died on September 3, 1912, at the age of forty-four years. She was a member of St. Mary's Catholic church at Remsen, as is her husband, and was one of the prominent workers in the local society, having been held in the highest regard for her kindly spirit and womanly ways. She was a kind and affectionate mother and an obliging neighbor and many were her deeds of charity and comfort in sickness and trouble. Mr. Brucher has long been active in the affairs of the Catholic Mutual Protective Society, in which he takes much interest. His life has been an active one and he has accomplished much that is worthy of emulation, his work and influence having had much to do with the growth and the development of the township and the county in which he has lived for so many years.

CHARLES F. BINGENHEIMER.

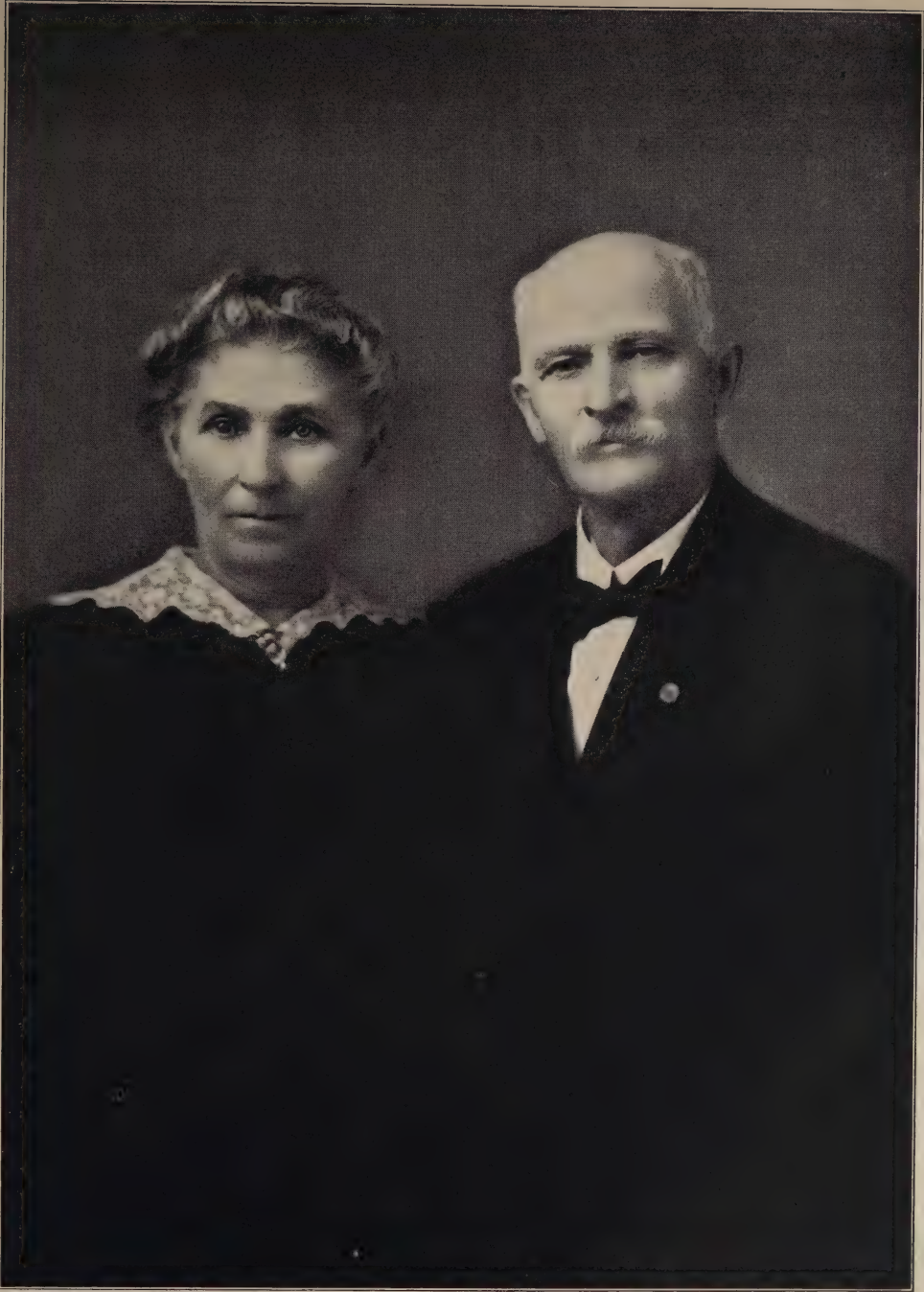
After a successful life as an agriculturist and stock raiser, Charles F. Bingenheimer is now living in honorable retirement in his cosy home in Le Mars, enjoying a well-earned rest, for his earlier life was somewhat strenuous. He was born in Wisconsin on March 10, 1859, and is a son of Charles and Mary Bingenheimer, both natives of Germany where they spent their earlier years. The elder Charles Bingenheimer emigrated to America when a young man and located in Wisconsin, where he engaged in general farming until 1873, when he came to Iowa and purchased a farm of two hundred acres in Washington township, Plymouth county, on which he continued farming with his usual success until he retired from active life and bought a home in Le Mars. During the Civil War he proved his loyalty to his adopted country by serving three years in the Union army, making a very creditable record as a soldier. He was honorably discharged at the close of his term of enlistment, after which he returned to life on the farm. He took part in many engagements, in one of which he was wounded in the leg, which necessitated its amputation. His family consisted of the following children: Charles F., the subject of this sketch; John, who lives in Merrill; Mary, who is unmarried and lives in Le Mars; Mrs. Lena Kluckhohn, who lives in Le Mars; Lizzie, who married Frank Kuehn, of Huron, S. D., and two, who are deceased.

Charles F. Bingenheimer was reared on the home farm, where he

worked hard when a boy. He received his education in the rural schools of his community in Wisconsin and moved to Plymouth county with his parents and farmed on the home place in Washington township until his marriage, after which he rented the homestead one year; then moved to Sanborn county, South Dakota, and bought there one hundred and sixty acres, which he operated for some time, then sold out and bought one hundred and sixty acres, homesteading forty acres also. He developed that land into a fairly good farm, which he sold a few years later and retired from active life, moving to Huron, South Dakota. In 1909 he returned to Iowa and has since made his home at Le Mars, owning a modern residence there. In 1885 Charles F. Bingenheimer married Alvena Prodehl, which union has been without issue. Mr. Bingenheimer is a Republican and has served as school director and as road boss. He belongs to the German Methodist church.

ANDREW W. CROUCH.

Andrew W. Crouch, a well-known retired farmer, an honored veteran of the Civil War and a pioneer of Plymouth county, now living at Le Mars, is a native of the great Empire state, but has been a resident of Iowa since 1874. He was born on a farm in Chautauqua county, New York, February 16, 1849, son of M. F. and Mandana (Hogle) Crouch, the former a native of the state of Pennsylvania and the latter of New York, both members of old colonial families, Mandana Hogle's grandfather having been a soldier of the patriot army during the Revolutionary War, giving more than six years of his life to the service. M. F. Crouch's father was a drummer during the War of 1812. When a child he had moved with his parents from Pennsylvania to New York state, his father having taken a homestead at what is now known as Jamestown, New York, and there he grew to manhood and married. He began farming there on his own account and was thus engaged until in December, 1857, when he came West with his family, settling in Grant county, Wisconsin, where he rented a bit of land and farmed the same until 1863, in which year he bought a farm in that county and there made his home until 1874, when he came to Iowa and settled on a farm in Plymouth county on which he lived until his retirement from the farm and removal to Le Mars in 1878. In 1882 he bought some land in Liberty township, this county, for the benefit of his younger sons, who farmed the place. M. F. Crouch spent the rest of his life in Le Mars, where his death occurred



ANDREW W. CROUCH AND WIFE

in 1900. His wife survived him some twelve years, her death occurring in 1912. They were the parents of seven children, five of whom are still living, but of whom but two, John and Andrew W., are now residents of this county.

Andrew W. Crouch was about eight years of age when his parents moved from New York to Wisconsin and he received his schooling in the schools of Grant county, in the latter state. At the age of fifteen years and eight months he enlisted for service in the Union army during the remainder of the Civil War, as a member of Company G, First Wisconsin Cavalry, attached to the Army of the Cumberland, and served with that command for ten months, or until the close of the war, and was mustered out at Edgefield, Tennessee, July 19, 1865. During his term of service in the army Mr. Crouch saw much active service, but never received a wound. His command was with Wilson on the latter's celebrated "raid" through Alabama and Georgia and he retains some very vivid recollections of that notable expedition. Upon the completion of his military service, Mr. Crouch returned to his home in Wisconsin and engaged in farming with his father. He was married in 1871 and in 1874 came with his parents to Plymouth county, locating in Liberty township, where for two years he lived on a rented farm. He then, in 1876, bought a tract of eighty acres, paying for the same six dollars and sixty cents an acre, and there farmed for five years, at the end of which time, discouraged by the continued ravages of the grasshoppers throughout this section, he returned to his former home in Wisconsin, but was dissatisfied with conditions there after having lived in Iowa, and in 1882 returned to Plymouth county, where he ever since has made his home. Upon his return to this county, Mr. Crouch bought a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in section 4 of Perry township, paying for the same seven dollars and fifty cents an acre, and there established his home. When he took possession of the place, it had been partly "broken" and a small house, together with some farm buildings had been erected on it. He proceeded to improve and develop the place and soon had a fine farm, on which he continued to make his home until 1901, in which year he bought a small tract of ten acres adjoining the city of Le Mars and there he and his wife made their home until their removal in 1910 to Le Mars, where they are now living very comfortably situated. During his active years of farming, Mr. Crouch prospered in his operations and gradually increased his holdings in Perry township to two hundred and forty acres of fine land, which he still owns.

As noted above, it was in 1871 that Andrew W. Crouch was united in marriage to Magdalena Roesch, daughter of Mathias Roesch and wife, and

to this union six children have been born, namely: Claudia, who married Conrad Hauff and has three children, Dwight, Viola and Warren; Oscar, who married Jennie Hurt and has three children, Gladys, Margaret and Lloyd; Mabel, who married Hyman Van Dyke and has three children, Loren, Opal and Clyde; Cora, who married William Dogulas and has one child, a daughter, Mildred; Frankie, who married Allen Lemen and has one child, a son, Emmet Dean, and Esther, who married Harold Pew.

Mr. Crouch is a Republican and has ever given his close attention to local civic affairs. During his residence in Perry township he was for some time chairman of the board of trustees for that township, of which board he was a member for about eighteen years, as well as a school director and secretary of the school board. Mr. Crouch is an active member of Mower Post, Grand Army of the Republic, at Le Mars, at present quarter-master of the post, and formerly was adjutant of the same. He also is a member of the local lodge of the Knights of Pythias and in the affairs of both of these organizations takes a warm interest.

ANTHONY THOMA.

Anthony Thoma, a well-known and successful business man and former postmaster of Le Mars, was born in Luxemburg, on June 15, 1858, the son of John and Mary (Hoffmann) Thoma, also natives of Luxemburg, who were there married and continued to live there until 1862, John Thoma being in the government employ. On their arrival in this country in 1862 they located at Aurora, Illinois, where they remained for four years, at the end of which time, in 1866, they moved to a farm in Jackson county, Iowa. That farm Mr. Thoma developed and improved and there he engaged in general farming and stock raising until the time of his death. Mr. and Mrs. Thoma were members of the Catholic church and took much interest in the social and the religious life of the community, where they were held in the highest regard. They were the parents of eight children, whom they reared in the faith of the church.

Anthony Thoma received the greatest part of his education in the public schools of Jackson county, supplemented by a two years' course in St. John's University, of Minnesota. He grew to manhood on the home farm and assisted his father with the work on the place, remaining at home until the fall of 1880, when he came to Iowa and located at Le Mars, where he

was engaged in the grocery store of Frank Miller and company for two years, after which he engaged in business for himself on East Sixth street. He remained in the business there for eleven years, or until his appointment as postmaster, when he sold out. Mr. Thoma served in the official capacity of postmaster from 1893 until 1897 and after his retirement from the postoffice he again engaged in the grocery business and for the greater part of the time has since been engaged in that business. He purchased his present place of business two years ago and today has one of the well-stocked and up-to-date stores of the town.

As a young man, Anthony Thoma was united in marriage to Anna Hoffmann and to this union eight children have been born, Mary, John, Joseph, Peter, Theodore, Nicholas, Anton and Geneva. Mr. and Mrs. Thoma are members of the Catholic church and have reared their family in that faith. They are prominent in the social life of the community and take much interest in promoting the highest social standards in their home town. Mr. Thoma is an active member of the Knights of Columbus and has had much to do with the success of the local society, five of his sons also being members of the Knights of Columbus. He has always been active in local affairs and has devoted much of his time and ability to the promotion of the interests of the community. He is one of the active members of the Commercial Club of Le Mars and is prominent in its affairs.

ROBERT HODGSON.

Although a quiet and unassuming man, with no ambition for public position or leadership, Robert Hodgson, for many years a general farmer in Plymouth county, now living retired in Le Mars, has contributed much to the general welfare of his adopted locality and is held in high esteem by all who know him.

Mr. Hodgson was born in County Durham, England, November 13, 1851, and is a son of William and Jane (Lowe) Hodgson, both also natives of the vicinity in which their son Robert was born. There they grew up, were married and established their home. The father was a miner. He brought his family to America in 1872 and settled in Ft. Dodge, Iowa, but he was fated to survive only two weeks in the New World, for after working there two days he contracted blood poisoning, from which he could not

recover. His widow died in 1877. They had eight children, namely: John, who is living in Boone county, Iowa; Mary, who lives in Palo Alto county, Iowa; Robert, the subject of this sketch; William, who died in Oregon in 1913; Phoebe, the wife of John Dempster, of Le Mars; Stephen, who is farming in North Dakota; Jane, who lives in Palo Alto county, Iowa, and Joseph, who is farming at Carvel, Colorado.

Robert Hodgson had little chance to obtain an education. He grew to manhood in England, where he started working in the mines when ten years of age as a washer-boy. He later worked in a limestone quarry at Stanhope, England, and was twenty-one years old when he came to America with the family in 1872. He came to Plymouth county in 1878 and bought railroad land in Stanton township, in partnership with his brother, William, and a brother-in-law. They were all very poor and did not have enough money at the time to make the first payment on the land. Robert Hodgson located on that land in 1880; worked hard in bringing it up from the raw prairie to a high state of cultivation, making all improvements, and there he carried on general farming and stock raising successfully until 1914, when he retired and moved to Le Mars, where he owns a pleasant home.

In 1883 Robert Hodgson was married to Sarah Bainbridge, of Lafayette county, Wisconsin, a daughter of George and Sarah Bainbridge, natives of England, from which country they came to America and located in Wisconsin, later moving to Kingsley, this county. They were parents of eleven children, namely: Ralph, deceased; Joseph, who lives at Kingsley; Jane, who makes her home in Kingsley; Sarah, the wife of Mr. Hodgson; George, Mary, John, William and Lizzie, all living at Kingsley; Maggie, who lives in Oregon, and Frank, who lives at Kingsley.

Five children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Hodgson, namely: William, who is farming the old home place in Stanton township, married Sarah Allison; George, who is unmarried and lives with his brother, William, on the farm; Robert C., who is attending school in Le Mars; Jennie, the wife of Frank Harker, of Le Mars, and Ethel, who is at home.

After his marriage, Mr. Hodgson lived on his farm in Stanton township, to which he added more land until he owned an excellent farm of two hundred and forty acres, on which he made the present high-grade improvements. He made a specialty of raising Shorthorn cattle of a good grade, also draft horses and Poland China and Chester White hogs. He also owns a half section of good land in South Dakota. He deserves a great deal of credit for what he has accomplished unaided and in the face of very dis-

couraging circumstances. Mr. Hodgson is a Republican and has held school offices for five years. He belongs to the Methodist Episcopal church in Le Mars.

JOHN RICHARDSON.

John Richardson, one of Plymouth county's best-known pioneer farmers, now living retired at Le Mars, was born in London, England, September 15, 1849, a son of James and Eliza (Simmons) Richardson, the father born in Scotland, in 1818, and the mother in London.

James Richardson was fifteen years old when he left his native land and went to London. He was a carpenter and joiner by trade and became a fine workman, having served an apprenticeship of seven years. He worked at his trade ten years before immigrating to America in 1851. He located in Chicago and worked in car shops, repairing passenger coaches, doing all hand work there for five years. He came to Iowa in 1856 and spent one year at Dyersville, in the days before the railroad had penetrated to that section of the state. Later he bought a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Delaware county. It was wild land, but he improved it and engaged in general farming there until his death in 1893, at the age of seventy-five years. His wife also reached the age of seventy-five. They were parents of the following children: Henry, who lives in Kansas; James, who lives in Hartley, Iowa; John, the subject of this sketch; David, who lives in Missouri, and Walter, who lives in Delaware county, Iowa.

John Richardson was about two years old when his parents brought him to America. He received his education in the common schools, helped his father with the farm work in Delaware county, this state, and remained at home until he was twenty-six years old. On July 24, 1876, he married Florence Shaw, of Guttenburg, Iowa, a daughter of William and Nancy (Beckett) Shaw, natives of Pennsylvania and Missouri, respectively. William Shaw grew up in his native state and came to Iowa in 1856; was married in Dubuque and settled near Earlville, Delaware county, on a farm; later moved to Sac county, then to Sioux City, this state, whence he moved to Topeka, Kansas, where his death occurred on September 15, 1914, and where his widow is still living. They were parents of four children, namely: Florence, wife of the subject of this sketch; Perdita, who lives in Topeka; Eva, who lives in West Plains, Missouri, and William, who lives in Fairmount, North Dakota.

To Mr. and Mrs. Richardson three children were born, namely: Harvey, who is farming at Worthington, Minnesota, married Myrtle Kirby, and has three children, Clarence, Florence and Walter; Arthur, unmarried, who is engaged in farming near Painsville, Minnesota, and Gertrude, who married Ezra G. Pearce, of Worthington, Minnesota, and has one daughter, Juanita. These three children all received good educations in the public schools.

In 1871 Mr. Richardson came to Plymouth county and bought a farm in Union township, on which he located in 1875, improved it and added to it until he now owns two hundred acres of valuable land. He engaged in general farming and stock raising there with success until 1906, when he retired and moved to Le Mars. He built his present attractive home in the Wernli addition in 1914. He votes the Republican ticket, but has never been very active in public life.

JOHN W. GALLES.

John W. Galles, a well-known and successful retired farmer of Remsen township, this county, was born in Luxemburg, on August 13, 1851, the son of John and Mary (Guber) Galles, who were also born in Luxemburg, where they continued to live until 1869, when they decided that they would come to America and here obtain a home for themselves and their family. On their arrival in the United States they came direct to Iowa and located at Bellview, Jackson county, where Mr. Galles worked as a farm hand for some time. He later engaged in farming, as a renter in the county, and was thus engaged until the time of his death. Mr. and Mrs. Galles were members of the Catholic church, took much interest in church work and were well-known in the social and religious life of their community. They were the parents of the following children: John, of Remsen township; Peter, of Sioux county; John W., the subject of this sketch; Mrs. Valentine Ostead, Mrs. Peter Arens, Mrs. Katherine Masuen, Joseph of Remsen township, and three who are deceased.

John W. Galles received his schooling in Luxemburg and was there engaged in farm work until he came to this country with his parents, he then being about nineteen years of age. Upon locating in Jackson county, this state, he worked as a farm hand until 1876, when he came to Plymouth

county and located at Le Mars, where he was engaged in the Gahlen flour-mills for two years. He was then married and engaged in farming for himself, on a rented farm, near Le Mars, where he remained for two years. He then removed to Remsen township, where he rented for a time; after which he removed to Marion township, where he rented for one year, at the end of which time he moved to South Dakota, where he remained for four years. He then returned to Plymouth county and rented land and engaged in general farming until 1901, in which year he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in Remsen township. That farm he developed and improved and there he engaged in general farming and stock raising until 1914, when he retired from the activities of farm life and moved to Remsen, where he now resides and where he owns a substantial home.

In 1878 John W. Galles was united in marriage to Margaret Wagner, daughter of Michael and Mary (Gobare) Wagner, and to this union the following children were born: John P., Joseph W., Edwin, Charles, Michael, Anna, Mary, Clara, Margaret and Clements. John P. Galles married Louisa Summer and has two children, John and Wilhelm. Joseph W. Galles married Anna Knapp and has one son, Roman. Edwin Galles is unmarried. Charles Galles married Regina Boltz. Michael Galles married Anna Schnieder and has two children, Arnold and Evelyn. Anna Galles married Frank Raker and has five children, Caroline, Matilda, Theresa, Florence and Vivian. Mary Galles married Joseph Allish and has three children, Loranine, Colestine and Charlotte. Clara Galles married Frank Lenertz and has two children, Florrie Ann and Waltermeyer.

Mrs. Margaret Wagner Galles was born in Jackson county, Iowa, where she received her education in the public schools and where she grew to womanhood. Her parents were natives of Luxemburg, where they were married. In 1857 they came to the United States and located in Jackson county, Iowa, where they remained until 1876, when they came to Plymouth county, the father engaging in farming here until the time of his death, a number of years ago. The family were prominent in the social and the religious life of the community and were held in the highest regard and respect by all.

John W. Galles and family are active members of St. Mary's Catholic church at Remsen and take much interest in church work. Mr. Galles is a member of the Luxemburger Bunderbund of America and takes a warm interest in the affairs of the same. He is an independent Democrat and has always taken much interest in the civic life of the community.

PETER REISCH.

Peter Reisch, a native of Luxemburg, and now one of the well-known and successful farmers of Marion township, this county, was born on April 13, 1865, the son of Francis and Margaret Reisch, also natives of Luxemburg, who spent all their lives in their native land, dying some years ago. The father was a laborer and a farmer in a small way, and devoted his life to that work. Mr. and Mrs. Reisch were active members of the Catholic church and took much interest in church work, well-known in the social and the religious life of the community in which they lived; a highly-respected family, held in the highest regard by all who knew them. They were the parents of three children, Peter, Elizabeth and Anna.

Peter Reisch, the only one of the family who came to America, was educated in the public schools of his native land and there grew to manhood. He spent three years of his early life in Belgium, after which he returned to his native land, where he remained for one year, and then decided to come to America. It was in 1884 that he bade good-by to the family and the scenes of his childhood and young manhood and sailed for the United States. On his arrival in this country he came at once to Iowa and located near Le Mars, where he worked as a farm hand in America township for six years. He then rented land in that township for nine years, after which, in 1899, he purchased one hundred and forty-three acres of land in Marion township, where he now lives. Since he made his original purchase he has added to his holdings until he is now the owner of four hundred and twenty-seven acres of excellent land in Marion township, as well as a small tract that adjoins Le Mars. At the time Mr. Reisch made his first purchase of land, the tract was for the most part only partly improved and developed. Since that time he has put some ten thousand dollars in improvements and has developed the place until it is today one of the ideal farms of the township. There he is engaged in general farming and stock raising and is a firm believer in intensive farming and in the keeping of the best of stock. He farms one hundred and twenty-five acres of corn and one hundred and ten acres of small grain, the most of which he feeds on the place. He keeps one hundred and fifty head of hogs, feeds out a carload of cattle each year and is today recognized as one of the progressive and successful farmers and stockmen in the township.

In 1890 Peter Reisch was united in marriage to Jennie Rolling, a daughter of John and Susan Rolling, pioneers of Plymouth county, whose last



days were spent here. John Rolling was born in Germany and there received his education in the public schools and there grew to manhood. As a young man he learned the carpenter trade, at which he worked until he was twenty-five years of age, when he decided to come to America. On landing in the city of New York he remained there for two years and worked at his trade. He then came to Iowa and located in Jackson county, where he was married and continued to engage in the carpenter work until 1872, in which year he came to Plymouth county and purchased a farm of two hundred acres in section 19 of Marion township, and there established his home and spent the remainder of his life. When Mr. Rolling settled on his farm the tract was wild prairie and it was necessary for him to break the sod and prepare the land for cultivation. He at first built a small house and at once began the task of developing his farm. He later built a more commodious house, planted a grove and in other ways made his farm one of the substantial places of the township. At the time of the grasshopper visitation he suffered severe losses, as did all the pioneers of that time, but he overcame these losses and soon became a successful farmer, in time becoming known as one of the substantial and influential men of the township. It was on that home farm that Mrs. Rolling died on January 4, 1894. Mr. Rolling survived her and died on February 24, 1903. They were the parents of the following children: Nicholas, a resident of Perry, Oklahoma; Lena, the wife of Peter Zeit; Jennie, who married Peter Reisch, and John P., a prominent and well-known farmer and stockman of Marion township.

Peter and Jennie (Rolling) Risch are the parents of the following children: John (who died in infancy), Nick, Lena, John, Frank, Leo (who died at the age of eleven years), Alfons, Emma, Raymond, Elizabeth and Marie. The Reischs are active members of the Catholic church and have long been prominent in the social and the religious life of the community, where they are held in the highest regard and esteem by all who know them. Mr. Reisch is a member of the Roman Catholic Mutual Protective Association, in which he takes much interest. Politically, he is an independent Republican and takes an active interest in the civic life of the township as well as the county.

On coming to this country, Peter Reisch was a poor boy and had little else than his ability to work and the determination to succeed. His life has been a busy one and he has devoted his time and his energies to his work in hand. He was always saving and economical and as soon as he was in a position to do so he purchased a farm of his own, which today is developed

and improved into one of the best tracts in the township, and has a beautiful country home. Mr. Reisch is held in the highest regard because of his ability to do things, and because of his high regard for the opinion of others.

RANDOLPH PAYNE.

By a straightforward and commendable course Randolph Payne, president of the Bank of Kingsley, has attained an honored position among the men who are factors in shaping the destinies of Plymouth county. His life proves that the only true success in this world is that which is accomplished by personal effort and consecutive industry; by honesty and fidelity, and by an unassuming attitude toward those with whom he comes in contact.

Randolph Payne was born in London, England, February 6, 1862, a son of Wyndham and Phillis (Samples) Payne, who lived and died in England, the father spending his active life as a merchant in London. Three of his children came to America, namely: Frank, William W., and Randolph. The last-named grew to manhood in his native land and was educated in Lansing College on the south coast of Great Britain. He came to the United States in 1881, single, locating in Iowa, and engaged in farming in the vicinity of Le Mars until 1886, when he went to South Dakota and was employed in a bank at Vermillion until in March, 1893, when he returned to Plymouth county and bought an interest in the local bank at Kingsley, which was then owned by Mueller & Robinson, who had purchased it of Oldfield & Vernon. The Bank of Kingsley was founded in 1883 and is one of the oldest banks in this county. Mr. Payne has been president of the same since the year 1893. He has managed its affairs in a highly commendable manner and the institution has had a steady growth and is regarded as one of the sound and safe banks of Plymouth county. Mr. Payne's brother, William W. Payne, was in partnership with him for a number of years, but he was killed in England a few years ago while in that country settling up an estate. His widow has since owned a half interest in the local bank. William W. Payne was vice-president until his death. Mr. Payne, the subject of this sketch, has been very successful in a business way and is also owner of six hundred acres of valuable land in Plymouth county. He is also part owner of a drug store in Kingsley, with his son, W. R. Payne; is a stockholder in the Kingsley Telephone

Company, in which he has been a director since its organization, and is also a stockholder in the Kingsley Creamery Company.

In August, 1886, Randolph Payne was married to Hannah Maybury Mansfield, a native of Great Britain, and who was reared and educated in Ireland. To Mr. and Mrs. Payne three children have been born, namely: Wyndham R., who is engaged in the drug business in Kingsley and is married; Harold W., who is engaged in business in Kingsley and is married, and Phillis M., who lives with her parents. Mr. Payne is a Mason of high degree, affiliated with Cosmos Lodge No. 470 at Kingsley and with the Des Moines Temple of the Ancient Arabic Order of Nobles of the Mystic Shrine. He is a Republican and he and his family are members of the Episcopal church.

HENRY WENNER.

Henry Wenner, one of the well-known and prominent retired farmers of Remsen, was born in Luxemburg on February 15, 1847, the son of John and Anna (Mousel) Wenner, who were also natives of Luxemburg. As a young man, John Wenner learned the tailor trade, at which he worked for a number of years. He later became a farmer and was thus engaged until the time of his death. He and his wife continued to live in their native land and there they died some years ago. They were the parents of eleven children; three of whom are now in America; namely: Margaret, of Dyersville, Iowa; Mary Margaret and Henry.

Henry Wenner received his education in the public schools of Luxemburg and there he grew to manhood. Upon completing his schooling he engaged in farming as a farm hand and was thus engaged until he was nineteen years of age, when he determined to come to America. On his arrival in the United States he came direct to Iowa and located at Cascade, Dubuque county, where he married a few years later and where he worked as a farm hand until 1874, when he came to Plymouth county, and rented a farm four miles east of Le Mars and there made his home for two years, at the end of which time he bought eighty acres of land in Meadow township, paying for the same seven dollars an acre. The tract at that time was all wild prairie and without improvements. Mr. Wenner at once put up a small house and began the task of breaking the tough prairie sod. He put out a grove and made other improvements and later erected good and

substantial buildings. There he engaged in general farming and stock raising and was quite successful, gradually increasing his land holdings until he became the owner of three hundred and forty acres of good land, all of which he brought under cultivation and improved. There he continued his farming and stock raising until 1903, when he retired from the activities of farm life and moved to Remsen. When Mr. Wenner settled in Meadow township there were but few settlers in that community, he being among the very earliest, and he thus had much to do with the early civic life of the township, becoming one of the substantial and prominent men of the community.

In 1870 Henry Wenner was united in marriage to Anna Faber, daughter of John and Katherine (May) Faber, and to this union the following children were born: Margaret, Katherine, Elizabeth, Matilda, Anna, May, Isabelle, Clara, Rosa, Charles, Regina and Henry. Margaret Wenner married John Alesch and to that union twelve children were born, Henry, Elvina, Marcelenda, Matilda, Leonard, Mary, Joseph, Laurena, John, Margaret and two who are deceased. Katherine Wenner married Michael Lambert and is now deceased. Elizabeth Wenner married Frank Tritz and to this union the following children were born: Henry, Raymond, Gordon, Cleopha, Marie and Joseph. Matilda Wenner married Joseph Keffeler and has eight children, Florence, Orlando, Urban, Maurice, Regina, Alfred, Clarence and Katherine. Anna Wenner married Nick Trienen and has three children, Irene, Marion and Linus. Mary Wenner married George Hefner. Isabelle Wenner married Nick Homan. Clara Wenner married Nick Kellen and has four children, Helen, Norbert, Ruth and Raphael. Rosa Wenner married Peter Homan and has four children, Gordon, Elaine, Marion and Gerald. Regina Wenner married Adolph Beck and Henry Wenner is attending the business college at Sioux City. Six of the daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Wenner were successful school teachers in the county before their marriage and did efficient work in the schools over which they had charge. They were proficient in their work and won the confidence of both the pupils and the patrons of their respective districts.

Henry Wenner has always taken much interest in the civic life of the township and has served as school director, as township trustee and as assessor, long being regarded as one of the prominent men of the township. He and his wife have long been members of the St. Mary's Catholic church at Remsen and have taken an active interest in church work, being prominent in the social and the religious life of the community.

E. E. EASTMAN.

E. E. Eastman, a well-known and substantial retired farmer of Grant township, this county, now living at Le Mars, where he is serving as councilman-at-large for that city, is a native of Wisconsin, but has lived in this county since he was eighteen years of age. He was born on a farm in Hazel Green, Wisconsin, December 10, 1858, son of L. S. and Catherine Eastman, the former a native of the state of Vermont and the latter of the city of Troy, New York, who many years later became residents of Le Mars, where L. S. Eastman spent his last days and where his widow is still living.

L. S. Eastman was reared on a farm in Vermont and in the district school of his home neighborhood received a meager education. When he was eighteen years of age he joined the "gold rush" to California, going by way of the Mississippi River and the gulf and crossed the isthmus on foot, reaching his destination from Panama by way of a coasting vessel. He was quite successful in his quest for gold and after awhile returned home, to find that his family had moved from Vermont to Wisconsin. He joined them in the latter state, was presently married there and began farming on his own account, remaining there until he came with his family to Iowa and settled in this county in 1876. Upon coming to Plymouth county, L. S. Eastman bought a farm of three hundred and twenty acres, where the village of Craig now is situated, paying for the same six dollars an acre, and became one of the most substantial farmers and ranchmen in the county, gradually increasing his land holdings until he became the owner of one thousand and forty acres. There he farmed and raised cattle and remained on the place until 1896, when he retired from the active labors of the farm and moved to Le Mars, where he spent his last days, his death occurring in April, 1913, and where his widow is still living. To them three children were born, those besides the subject of this sketch being L. O. Eastman and Mrs. Exie Richards.

E. E. Eastman received his schooling in his native state of Wisconsin and was about eighteen years of age when his parents moved to this county, but before that he and his father had spent about eighteen months on the new place in Grant township, breaking the soil and preparing a home, so that his acquaintance with Plymouth county really dates from his sixteenth year. He remained on the home farm until after his marriage in 1887, when he began farming on his own account on the farm of three hundred

and twenty acres he had acquired in Grant township and from the very beginning was successful in his operations, presently having one of the best-improved farms in Plymouth county. To his original holdings he later added an adjoining "eighty" and went into the raising of purebred Short-horn cattle on quite an extensive scale, his stock frequently proving prize winners at county fairs. Mr. Eastman continued to make his home on his farm and to give the place his active personal direction until the first of March, 1899, when he retired and with his family moved to Le Mars, where he ever since has made his home, directing his extensive interests from that place. Mr. Eastman has ever given close attention to local civic affairs and during his residence in Grant township served for ten terms as a member of the school board and for years was justice of the peace there. He is now serving as alderman-at-large for the city of Le Mars and is giving his close attention to public affairs.

It was on January 26, 1887, at Monticello, Wisconsin, that E. E. Eastman was united in marriage to Estella Wallace, a daughter of Alexander Wallace and wife, and to this union two children have been born, Mabel, who married J. F. Evans, and Clyde, now serving as sergeant-major in the Iowa National Guard, in the federal service, on the Mexican border. Mr. and Mrs. Eastman are members of the Presbyterian church. On June 22, 1916, Mr. Eastman gave a banquet to Company K, Second Regiment, Iowa National Guard, at the Union Hotel at Le Mars, eighty-one persons being in attendance, the affair being one of the most notable functions of the kind ever given at Le Mars.

JAMES CAREL.

James Carel, a well-known and well-to-do retired farmer of Plymouth county, now living at Le Mars, is a native of the neighboring state of Wisconsin, but has been a resident of Iowa and of Plymouth county since 1878 and may therefore very properly be regarded as one of the pioneers of this county. He was born on a farm in Grant county, Wisconsin, September 23, 1852, son of Peter and Elizabeth Carel, the former a native of Ireland and the latter of the state of Illinois, who spent their last days in Wisconsin.

Peter Carel was born in County Wicklow, Ireland, and there lived un-

til he had reached man's estate, when he came to this country and settled at Galena, Illinois. Shortly afterward he was married, the ceremony being performed at Dubuque by Bishop Lois, and shortly after their marriage he and his wife moved to Grant county, Wisconsin, where for a short time Peter Carel was employed in the lead mines, later buying a small farm, on which he and his wife spent the remainder of their lives. They were the parents of nine children, of whom four are still living, those besides the subject of this sketch being William, Edward and Anna.

Reared on the home farm in Grant county, Wisconsin, James Carel received his schooling in the schools of that neighborhood and when a young man became engaged working in the lead mines in that vicinity, afterward taking up farming, and was thus engaged until 1878, in which year he and his brother, William, came to this county and bought a farm of eighty acres in section 1 of Lincoln township, paying for the same six dollars and seventy-five cents an acre. They later bought an adjoining tract of one hundred and twenty acres and farmed in partnership for some time, James Carel presently buying his brother's interest in the place and continuing the operation of the farm alone. After his marriage in the fall of 1882 he established his home on the farm and there continued to make his home until his retirement from the farm and removal to Le Mars in 1913. In the meantime he had been prospering in his farming operations and had added to his original holdings of two hundred acres a tract of one hundred and twenty acres in Stanton township and a farm of eighty acres in Union township, being thus the owner of four hundred acres of choice Plymouth county land and long regarded as one of the substantial farmers of the county. Mr. Carel is a Democrat and during his residence in Lincoln township served for three years as township trustee.

It was on November 29, 1882, that James Carel was united in marriage to Mary Britt, who was born on a farm near the city of Dubuque, in Jackson county, this state, a daughter of Thomas and Eleanor Britt, the former of whom was born in the state of Pennsylvania and the latter in Kentucky. When but a small boy Thomas Britt came with his parents from Pennsylvania to Iowa, the family settling on a farm near Dubuque, where Thomas Britt grew to manhood. He married there and remained in Jackson county, engaged in farming, until 1871, in which year he came with his family to Plymouth county and bought a farm in Union township, on which he established his home and where he remained until 1895, when he moved to another farm he had bought in Stanton township and on the

latter place spent the rest of his life. He and his wife were the parents of ten children, seven of whom are still living, those besides Mrs. Carel being Jerry, Joseph, Thomas, Mrs. Kate Carel, Mrs. Charles Lite and James.

To James and Mary (Britt) Carel nine children have been born, namely: Elizabeth, who married John Bryan and has one child, a son, Thomas; William, unmarried; James, who married Theresa Sitzmann and has one child, a son, Lloyd; Mary, who married George Sitzmann and has three children, Dorothy, Ilena and Marion; Nona, who married William Sullivan and has one child, a son, Floyd, and Agnes, Bernard, Eva and Fern, who are unmarried. The Carels are members of St. James Catholic church and take a proper interest in parish affairs.

NICHOLAS OBEREKEN.

One of the well-known and highly-esteemed citizens of Plymouth county, whose labors benefited alike himself and the community, was the late Nicholas Obereken, a man who deserved the success he achieved in a material way, for he worked hard and was honest, leading a life free from blame in every respect. He was born in Luxemburg, January 4, 1859, and was a son of Hubert and Margaret (Braun) Obereken, both also natives of Luxemburg, where they lived and died. They were parents of five children, Nicholas being the only one to come to America.

Nicholas Obereken received his schooling in his native Luxemburg and upon completing the same went over into France, where for ten years he was engaged as a farm hand. In 1888 he married and in the next year, 1889, he and his wife came to the United States. For four years after coming here Mr. Obereken made his home on a rented farm and then bought a farm of one hundred and sixty acres near Oyens, this county, where he established his home. In 1900, accompanied by his wife, he returned to Luxemburg, where he remained for a year, at the end of which time he came back here and for six years thereafter was engaged as the manager of a lumber yard at Oyens. He and his wife then made another trip to Luxemburg, where they remained for sixteen months. Upon his return to this country Mr. Obereken became manager of the local yards of the Moore Lumber Company at Dayton, where he remained until his death, which occurred on November 16, 1912.

On October 10, 1888, Nicholas Obereken was married to Lucie Majerus,



MR. AND MRS. NICHOLAS OBEREKEN

a daughter of Nicholas and Mary (Wiler) Majerus, which union was without issue. Politically, Mr. Obereken was a Democrat. After her husband's death Mrs. Obereken made another visit back to her old home in Luxemburg and upon her return to Iowa was accompanied by her niece, Miss Catherine Thilges, a daughter of one of her sisters, who is now making her home with her, a delightful companion. Mrs. Obereken is now making her home at La Mars, where she has a very pleasant home at 805 Prospect street and where she is a member of St. Joseph's German Catholic church and takes a warm interest in parish affairs.

JOSEPH AHMANN.

Joseph Ahmann, one of the prominent and well-known stock dealers of Remsen, was born near Petersburg, Delaware county, Iowa, July 12, 1873, the son of Adolph and Anna Marie (Rahe) Ahmann, who were born in Westphalia, and who came to the United States in the days of their youth and were married in this country. Adolph Otto Ahmann, on his arrival in the United States, came direct to Iowa and located in Dubuque county, where he worked at the cabinet-making and carpenter trade, which he had learned in his native country. There he was married and continued to live for some years. He assisted in the building of the Catholic church at New Vienna, Iowa, and later purchased land in Delaware county, at one dollar and twenty-five cents an acre. That farm he developed and improved and there he lived until the time of his death, in October, 1886. His widow died in Dubuque in 1914.

Adolph Otto and Anna Marie Ahmann were active members of the Catholic church and were prominent in the social and the religious life of the community, where they were held in the highest reward and esteem by all who knew them. They were the parents of the following children: John Henry, Andrew, Clem, Barney, Frank, Joseph and two sons who died in infancy. John Henry Ahmann is the manager of the elevator at Remsen and mayor of that city. Andrew Ahmann is a farmer at Woodstock, Minnesota. Clem Ahmann was a lumber dealer at Clarion, Iowa. His death occurred on September 3, 1916. Barney Ahmann is a farmer in Dickey county, North Dakota. Frank Ahmann lives a retired life in Remsen. Adolph Otto Ahmann always took much interest in the affairs of his home community and had much to do with the early civic life of the township.

He was a man of ability and his advice and influence was sought on many matters of public interest.

Joseph Ahmann received his education in the parochial schools of Delaware county. As a lad of twelve years he began life for himself, for a time working as a farm hand. On June 12, 1887, he located at Remsen and there learned the carpenter trade, at which he worked for seven years, at the end of which time he engaged in the grain business, with John Eichhorn, with whom he remained for six years. Then for five years he was in the grain business with his brother, Frank. For thirteen years Joseph Ahmann was in the grain business, but since 1910 he has been dealing in live stock, and has been quite successful in that line. In addition to his other business, Mr. Ahmann looks after his farm of one hundred and twenty acres in the northwest part of the township. He has a highly developed and well-improved farm and some fine cattle.

On December 12, 1912, Joseph Ahmann was united in marriage to Margaret M. Eichhorn, daughter of John and Catherine Eichhorn, who came from Pennsylvania to Iowa, settling near Iowa City, where they lived until 1881, when they came to this county and settled in Remsen township, where Mr. Eichhorn engaged in general farming and stock raising and became one of the prominent and successful men of the township, taking much interest in the affairs of the community. He died some years ago and since then his widow has made her home with her children. John and Catherine Eichhorn were the parents of the following children: Mrs. Louis Willenberg, of Remsen; Fred, a real estate dealer of Remsen; Arthur, of Humboldt, South Dakota; Margaret M., the wife of Joseph Ahmann, and Clarence and Mabel, at Remsen.

Mr. and Mrs. Ahmann have one daughter, Mildred Irene, who was born on December 25, 1913. Mr. and Mrs. Ahmann are prominent in the social and the religious life of the community and take a warm interest in the social and general development of the township and the county, where they are held in the highest regard and esteem by all who know them. Mr. Ahmann is identified with the Democratic party and has taken much interest in all local affairs. While he has never aspired to office, he has had much to do with the civic life of his district and is often consulted on matters relating to the policies and the government of both the township and the county. He is progressive in his views, is a firm believer in substantial public improvements and is a strong advocate of the maintenance of the best of schools.

CLAAS S. MAMMEN.

Claas S. Mammen, one of the best-known and most substantial retired farmers of Plymouth county, now living in Le Mars, is a native of Germany, but has been a resident of this country since he was twenty-five years old and of Plymouth county since the year 1884. He was born on December 8, 1840, son of Gocka Henry and Sebert Mammen, also natives of Germany, both now deceased, the former of whom spent all his life in that country and the latter of whom came to this country in 1866 and died in Grant township, this county.

Upon leaving school Claas S. Mammen began doing for himself as a farm laborer, his first employment in that connection having been undertaken at a wage of twenty dollars a year. He continued thus employed until he was twenty-five years of age, when he decided to come to the United States, being quite sure that greater opportunities awaited him here than he could hope for in his native land. Sailing from Bremen he was thirty-one days making the passage on a sailing vessel. He landed at New York with enough money to pay his railroad fare to his destination, Sterling, Illinois; but a married friend who had come over on the same vessel, and whose destination also was Sterling, lacked enough money to pay his wife's passage to that point of destination and Mr. Mammen generously gave his remaining dollars to his friend in order that the latter might proceed at once with his wife to the point they had selected as their home in the new country. By this act of generosity Mr. Mammen was compelled to remain in New York City until he could earn enough money, by whatever employment he could pick up, to bring him West. This was soon accomplished, however, and it was not long until he was able to proceed on out to Sterling, in the neighborhood of which place he secured employment as a farm hand and was thus engaged in that locality for several years, at the end of which time he had saved enough money to enable him to buy a farm of seventy acres, on which, after his marriage in 1869, he established his home and there he continued to live until 1884, in which year he sold his place to advantage and came to Iowa, seeking more and cheaper land. Mr. Mammen wisely chose Plymouth county as his place of future abode and upon his arrival here brought a quarter of a section of partly improved land in Grant township, where he established his home. From the very beginning of his farming operations in this county, Mr. Mammen prospered and it was not long until he was able to buy another quarter section and still later to buy addi-

tional land until he became the possessor of a fine farm of four hundred and eighty acres, all of which he improved and brought to a high state of development and on which place he made his home until 1905, in which year he retired from the farm and moved to Le Mars, where he has since made his home and where he is very pleasantly and very comfortably situated. Mr. Mammen is a Republican and has ever given proper attention to local civic affairs, during his residence in Grant township, having served as a school director and as township trustee. He and his family are members of the German Lutheran church and he is a member of the board of trustees of the congregation of that church at Le Mars, a position he also occupied with respect to the congregation of that church during his residence in Grant township.

Mr. Mammen has been thrice married. It was in 1869, during his residence in Illinois, that he was united in marriage to Johanna Lenther and to that union five children were born, namely: Dr. G. H. Mammen, who married Emma Ernestfelt and has one child, a son, Donald; John, who married Thena Cruise and has three children, Hannah, Clara and John; Martin, who married Sophia Drescher and has three children, Mildred, Lucile and Herman; Charles, who married Anna Baugus and has four children, Elmer, Alice, Minnie and Carl, and William, who married Hannah Bruns and has one child, a daughter, Marie. Following the death of the mother of these children Mr. Mammen married Johanna Ropplap and to this union four children were born, namely: Hannah, who married Otto Vollmer and has one child, John; Margaret, who married John Schneider and has two children, Glynn and Katherine; Katherine, who married John Klein and has one child, Margaret, and Herman, who married and is living in Montana. Following the death of his second wife Mr. Mammen married Mrs. Christina Bolken, which union has been without issue.

DETLEF ERICHSEN.

Detlef Erichsen, one of the well-known and prominent retired farmers of Remsen, was born in Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, January 23, 1859, son of Peter and Maggie Erichsen, who also were born in Germany, where they spent all their lives, Peter Erichsen being engaged in farming. They were active members of the German Lutheran church and took much interest in church work. They were the parents of five children, who are

now living: Mary, who is the wife of Ernest Cook; Peter, of Remsen; Hans, of Henry township; Helen, of Washington, D. C., and Detlef, the subject of this sketch.

Detlef Erichsen received his schooling in the public schools of his native country and at the age of fourteen years, in 1873, came to the United States, and located in Benton county, Iowa, where he worked as a farm hand until 1881, in which year he came to Plymouth county and purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in Remsen township, paying for the same nine dollars an acre. The land at that time was undeveloped and unimproved and he built a small house, sixteen by twenty-four feet, and a straw barn, and at once began the task of breaking the sod and planting a grove, soon having a part of his farm ready for cultivation. Mr. Erichsen was quite successful in his farming and in time he became the owner of six hundred and forty acres of excellent land, which he brought under cultivation and improved. During his active life as a farmer, he cultivated about one hundred and fifty acres of corn, seventy-five acres of small grain and the balance of his farm he had in hay and pasture. He remained on the farm until 1911, when he retired from the activities of the farm life and moved to Remsen, where he has a fine home and is enjoying some of the fruits of his long years of work. Some years ago Mr. Erichsen visited his native land and while there spent many pleasant hours in viewing again the scenes of his childhood and visiting with relatives and friends. He noted many changes and his trip was a pleasant one, but he was glad to return to his adopted country, his family and his interests here.

While living on the farm, Detlef Erichsen devoted much time, in addition to his farm work, to the care of his live stock and annually fed some two hundred hogs and three or four carloads of cattle, becoming recognized as one of the leading stock men of the neighborhood. By careful management and close application to business he has succeeded. When he came to the United States as a mere lad, he had but little money and he knew that it would be only by his own efforts, if he did succeed. He invested the proceeds of his labor in land, which he was careful to develop to its fullest extent. He believed in intensive farming and the keeping of good stock, and gave the best of care to both his farm and his cattle and his hogs.

In 1886 Detlef Erichsen was united in marriage to Kate Jacobs, a daughter of Peter Jacobs, and to this union the following children have been born: August, Herman, Emma, Alvina and Mary. August Erichsen married Ida Nitshke and has two children, Walter and a baby. Herman Erichsen is unmarried and at home. Emma Erichsen married Henry Mehl-

hop and has three children, George, Alma and Marie. Elvina Erichsen married Edwin Nitslke and has one child, August.

Peter Jacobs and wife were natives of Germany and lived in the same community in which D  tlef Erichsen was reared. There they lived their lives, Mr. Jacobs being engaged in farming. It was there that their daughter, Kate, received her education in the public schools and there she grew to womanhood and later came to the United States. Mr. and Mrs. Erichsen are members of the German Lutheran church and have long been active in the social and religious life of the community. They are hospitable people and take much pleasure in the entertainment of their neighbors and friends. Mr. Erichsen is an independent voter and has always taken an active interest in the civic affairs of the township.

ALFRED DEMARAY.

A well-known and highly-esteemed citizen of Plymouth county is Alfred Demaray, for many years a successful farmer and stock raiser, but now living in retirement in Le Mars. He was born in the province of Ontario, Canada, January 2, 1854, a son of Richard and Ann Jane (McNeil) Demaray, both natives of Ontario also, the father of German descent and the mother of Scotch-Irish extraction. They grew up in Ontario, where they were married and began life on a farm, but came to the United States in 1868, locating in Clayton county, Iowa, where the father bought one hundred and seventy acres of raw land, which he transformed into a good farm and lived there fourteen years; then returned to Ontario for one year, then returned to Iowa, buying a farm just southeast of the town of Le Mars, where he lived until his death in the fall of 1880. His widow died at the home of their son, Alfred, in 1902. Richard Demaray and wife were members of the Methodist church. They were parents of eight children, namely: Jennie, who is the widow of William Webster; William, who lives in Sioux county, Iowa; Eliza, who married Henry Newell and died some years ago; Alfred, the subject of this sketch; Henry, who lives in California; A. C., who lives in Le Mars; William A., who lives in Sioux Falls, South Dakota; Herbert, who lives in western Canada.

Alfred Demaray received a common-school education and lived at home until he was twenty-four years old. On November 6, 1878, he married Harriet M. Redmon, who was born in Fillmore county, Minnesota, a daugh-

ter of Neville and Lucretia (Stanton) Redmon, the father a native of Ohio and the mother of Maryland. Neville Redmon was married in Indiana and came to Iowa in 1868, locating on a homestead about five miles south of Le Mars, where he and his wife spent the rest of their lives, Mr. Redmon dying in October, 1913, at the advanced age of eighty-four years. His wife died in 1889. Mr. Redmon was a carpenter by trade and helped build many of the buildings in Le Mars. He was a Democrat in early life and later a Republican. He took an interest in public affairs and served as justice of the peace for some time, and as a member of the school board for thirty years. He was a charter member of the Masonic lodge at Le Mars. The following children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Redmon: Alfred, who is engaged in business in Omaha, Nebraska; Lafayette, who is a barber in Bonesteel, South Dakota; Mary, who married Henry Leisinger and lives on a farm three miles south of Le Mars; George S., who is a contractor at Pipestone, Minnesota; Harriet, wife of Mr. Demaray; William M., who is engaged in the livery, ice and transfer business at Bonesteel, South Dakota; James E., who is a barber at Le Mars; Douglas, who is a retired farmer and lives in Le Mars; Ettie, who married Albert Corkins and lives in New Woodstock, New York; Bertha D., who is the widow of Henry Fowler, of Le Mars; Maude L., who married Archie Tucker, of Merrill, this county, and two children, who died when young.

The following children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Demaray: Albert Ernest, who is farming at Dayton, Oregon, married Electa Harris; I. L., who is in the elevator and transfer business at Pipestone, Minnesota, married Ina Penning; Alice M., the wife of Glynn W. Hayes, a telegraph operator for the Burlington railroad; Jennie E., who married M. M. Heilman, of Hubbard, Nebraska, and Harry, who is engaged in the hardware business at Pipestone, Minnesota.

Alfred Demaray came to Plymouth county before his marriage and bought a farm of one hundred and sixty acres, five miles south of Le Mars, where he engaged successfully in general farming and stock raising until 1880, when he moved to a farm eight miles northeast of Alexander, South Dakota, and lived there seven years; then returned to Plymouth county and settled in Elgin township, where he continued farming with his usual success for ten years, at the end of which time he went to Dakota county, Nebraska, and bought two hundred and forty acres, on which he farmed on an extensive scale until the fall of 1915, when he moved to Le Mars, bought a commodious home on Madison street and has since lived there in

retirement. While engaged in farming he was a breeder of Belgian horses, Shorthorn cattle and Chester White hogs. Politically, Mr. Demaray is a Republican. He belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America and is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

REV. JOHN VOLLMAR.

Schiller asserts: "A good man thinks of himself only at last." The Rev. John Vollmar, pastor of St. John's German Lutheran church at Craig, thinks of his congregation, his family and his neighbors, making their welfare paramount, and considering his own interests last. In this he is emulating the lowly Nazarene, whom only he is desirous of following.

The subject of this sketch was born in Gensungen, Hesse-Cassel, Germany, September 17, 1852. He is a son of John and Mary (Schomberg) Vollmar, the former a native of Appenfeld, Germany, and the latter of Gensungen, where they were married. The father was a railroad man and finally met death in an accident while operating his train on July 4, 1871. Soon thereafter his widow brought her children to America. Her death occurred in Clayton county, Iowa, in 1878. To these parents five children were born, three of whom died in infancy.

The Rev. John Vollmar came with his mother and sister to Clayton county, Iowa, in 1871. He attended the common schools for a period of eight years and Hamburg College for three years. He had spent one year in Melsungen College, before leaving his native land. He was a student at Wartburg Seminary at St. Sebald, Iowa, in 1874, and was ordained on May 3 of that year. His first charge was at Elkport, Iowa, where he spent three years, at the end of which time he was transferred to Kewanee county, where he remained for two years; thence to Brownton, Minnesota, where he spent five years. He spent the next ten years at Michigan City, Indiana, and was then superintendent of the Wernle Orphan's Home at Richmond, Indiana, for two years; then was pastor of the church of his denomination at Detroit, Michigan, for ten years, after which he preached at Bridgewater, that state, for five years and six months. On October 25, 1911, he located at Craig, this county, where he has since remained.

St. John's German Lutheran church, of which the Rev. John Vollmar is pastor, was organized in February, 1911. His son, the Rev. J. J. Vollmar, had preached in this church a short time before the elder Vollmar took



REV. JOHN VOLLMAR AND FAMILY

charge. This church has had a steady growth under his pastorate, there being now about fifty families who hold membership in it. In fact, all the churches with which he has been connected have enjoyed a steady and satisfactory growth, for he very materially strengthened the work wherever he went, arousing enthusiasm in all departments of his congregational life, infusing new life into the various societies and Sunday schools. He is well versed in the Scriptures and is a forceful, instructive and entertaining pulpit orator.

On June 28, 1874, Rev. John Vollmar was married at Davenport, Iowa, to Lucy Ruegg, of Canton Graubuenden, Switzerland. She is a daughter of Jacob and Lucy Ruegg, who followed the occupation of gardening in Switzerland, from which country they immigrated to America in 1867 and thereafter lived at different places, making their home a number of years with Rev. and Mrs. Vollmar. The father died at Richmond, Indiana, in 1895, and the mother at Bridgewater, Michigan, in 1907. Mrs. Vollmar is the only surviving member of her family.

Eight children have been born to Reverend Vollmar and wife, only four of whom are living at this writing, namely, Lizzetta, who married Fred Kusch, a banker at Craig; Rev. J. J. Vollmar, who lives in Le Mars; Adelia, who married Dr. C. F. Townsend and lives in Detroit, Michigan, and Otto, who married Hannah Mammen, a bookkeeper in Le Mars.

Rev. John Vollmar has been in the active ministry for a period of forty-two years, during which time he has been popular with many congregations, his work taking him over a wide territory, in a number of states, and he is held in the highest esteem by all who know him.

PROF. S. T. NEVELN.

It is not the kind of work, but the kind of spirit with which it is done that dignifies and exalts human service. This is a thought that should put heart into every worker, put glow and cheer into his service and fill him with a large degree of satisfaction in doing the work that nature seems to have, in a way, appointed for him. Prof. S. T. Neveln, superintendent of the city schools of Le Mars, is a man who gets satisfaction out of his daily tasks and therefore his work is not only well done, but life is worth living to him.

Prof. Neveln was born in Iowa county, Iowa, March 8, 1877, a son of C. H. and Katherine (Rothermund) Neveln, both born near Bremen, in the province of Hanover, Germany. The father came to America with his parents when young, the family locating for a time in Illinois, later moving to Iowa county, Iowa, where C. H. Neveln grew to manhood. He had attended school in Germany. He farmed with his father in Iowa county for some time, later farmed for himself until he retired from active life, and he now lives in Victor, Iowa. His family consisted of nine children, all of whom are still living save one, and of whom the subject of this sketch is the eldest, the others being as follow: John, who is superintendent of schools at Glenwood, Iowa; Charles, who is superintendent of schools at Forest City, Iowa; Benjamin, who is superintendent of schools at Walnut, Iowa; Edward, of Akron, Ohio; Arthur, who is farming in Iowa county; Mrs. Alice Wilson, of Davenport, Iowa, and Minnie, at home.

S. T. Neveln received his education in the public schools of Iowa county and was graduated from the Victor high school in 1896. He then taught school in Iowa county and attended the academic department of Des Moines College, from which he was graduated in 1898. Since then he has continued his education at the Iowa State Teachers College, from which institution he holds two degrees, Bachelor of Arts and Master of Didactics. Early in life he decided to devote his life to educational work and he has bent every effort in that direction, succeeding admirably from the first. Since finishing his college work, Professor Neveln has had charge of several schools, in all of which he has greatly strengthened the work, introducing new and improved methods and giving eminent satisfaction to all concerned. He was a teacher in the Springhill schools, then superintendent of the Blairsburg schools, and later superintendent of schools at Hull and at Belmond, later going to Storm Lake, where he was superintendent for five years and where he was instrumental in building a modern high school edifice and had charge of the construction of the same. In 1914 he was appointed superintendent of the city schools at Le Mars, where he has since remained. He has introduced manual training, domestic science and commercial courses in the schools and his services have been so highly satisfactory that the board, in the summer of 1916, re-elected him for a further term of three years, at the largest salary ever paid in the Le Mars schools. Professor Neveln keeps fully abreast of the times in all that pertains to his work, has been a member of the National Education Association during the past seven years; for three years has belonged

to the Northwest Iowa Teachers Association, has been on the executive committee of the same since he first joined it and is now chairman of that committee. He is also a member of the National Geographic Society of Washington, D. C. Professor Neveln is a Royal Arch Mason and a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He is an independent voter.

On July 26, 1905, at Webster City, Iowa, Professor Neveln was married to Ella Oakland, a daughter of Enoch and Mary Oakland, and to this union two children have been born, Doris Ruth, now (1916) ten years old, and Paul Lawrence, eight years of age.

FRANK J. KLOSTERMANN.

Frank J. Klostermann, one of the well-known and prominent retired farmers of Remsen, was born in Dubuque county, Iowa, September 26, 1849, the son of Frank J. and Agnes (Meyer) Klostermann, who were born in Stemfield, in the grand duchy of Oldenburg, Germany, the former on January 12, 1812, and the latter in February of that same year.

At the age of fourteen, the senior Frank J. Klostermann engaged as a sailor and followed the sea for many years. In 1841, not long after his marriage, he decided to come to America and after a voyage of six weeks in a sailing vessel landed at Baltimore, coming directly thence to Iowa and locating in Dubuque county. There he obtained forty acres of land in New Wine township, and on that tract built a log cabin, one of the seven along Dixon creek at that time. That pioneer building is still standing and in fairly good condition. After locating on the farm he developed and improved the place and there engaged in farming until the time of his death in 1892. Mr. and Mrs. Klostermann were active members of the Catholic church and always took much interest in church work. They were among the first members of the log church that was built on Maquoketa creek in 1845. They were prominent in the early social and religious life of that community and were held in the highest regard by all who knew them. They were the parents of eleven children, Caroline, Mary, Susan, Frank, Elizabeth, Frank J., Clements, T. H., Angeline, Catherine and Andrew, of whom Caroline, Mary Ann, Susan, Frank and Andrew are now deceased. Elizabeth lives in Minnesota; Clements lives at Petersburg Iowa; T. H. lives on the old homestead and Catherine lives with her brother, Frank J.

The children were all educated in the local schools in Dubuque county and grew up on the home farm, their early home being the little log house above referred to.

In addition to the schooling received in the local schools, the junior Frank J. Klostermann attended school at New Vienna and grew to manhood on the home farm, assisting his father with the farm work. He taught school for three years and remained at home until he was twenty-three years of age, when, on February 18, 1873, he was united in marriage to Mary Josephine Kramer, who was born in Oldenburg, Germany, the daughter of H. H. and Katherine Kramer, also natives of Germany, who came to Iowa in 1857 and settled at New Vienna, where Mr. Kramer engaged in farming and where they spent the rest of their lives, her death occurring in 1879 and his in 1889. They were prominent in the social and the religious life of the community and were highly regarded by all who knew them. They were the parents of the following children: Agnes, John H., F. H., Clements, Elizabeth, Charles, Joseph and Mary Josephine. Agnes, John H., F. H., Clements and Joseph are deceased. Elizabeth lives in Carroll county and Charles lives at Dyersville, Iowa.

To Frank J. and Mary Josephine Klostermann have been born the following children: Charles Joseph, Anna Louise, Mary Agnes, F. H., Clements J., Charles H., Bernard, Gerhard, Anton, Andrew M., Emma and Josephine C. C. Charles Joseph was born in 1874 and died in 1878. Mary Agnes died in 1909. Anna Louise is the wife of Mathew Kneip, a well-known farmer of Marion township. F. H. Klostermann married Mary Paskert and is engaged in the elevator business at Remsen. Clements J. Klostermann, a successful farmer of Marion township, married Winifred Kennedy. Charles H. Klostermann married Elizabeth Bentz and is successfully engaged in farming in Marion township. Bernard, Gerhard and Anton are deceased. Andrew M. Klostermann, a well-known carpenter at Remsen, married Ann Matern. Emma is the wife of Michael Frank, a farmer of Remsen township, and Josephine C. C. Klostermann was killed in an automobile wreck on May 5, 1914, at the age of seventeen years.

For some twenty-five years Frank J. Klostermann and wife lived in the vicinity of Petersburg, Iowa, where Mr. Klostermann was successfully engaged in general farming and stock raising and where he became one of the successful men of the community. On February 25, 1898, they left their home near Petersburg and came to Plymouth county, settling on a farm in Marion township, where they continued to engage in general farming

and stock raising until 1911, when they retired from the activities of farm life and moved to Remsen, where they now reside in their beautiful home, enjoying some of the rewards of their long life spent on the farm. During the active life of Mr. Klostermann he was the owner of three hundred and twenty acres of excellent land, and was particularly interested in the breeding and raising of Polled-Angus cattle, Belgian horses and Poland China hogs. He always took an active interest in local affairs and has served as justice of the peace, was for eleven years a member of the school board in Delaware county and was secretary of the farmers' creamery at Petersburg for seven years and also secretary of the Mutual Fire Insurance Company at Remsen for three years. He has long been recognized as one of the substantial farmers and stockmen of the community. He is progressive in his views and has always advocated high-class public improvements.

JASON SCOTT.

The veterans of the great Union army that saved the nation from disruption during its darkest period should be justly proud of what they have done for succeeding generations, having left an inheritance for which we should be very grateful; indeed, we owe them a debt of gratitude that we can never pay. One of the veterans of the Civil War in Plymouth county is Jason Scott, a retired farmer now living in Le Mars.

Jason Scott was born on July 7, 1841, in Ohio. He is a son of John and Mary Scott, the father a native of Scotland and the mother of Ohio. John Scott was three years old when his parents brought him to America. The family located in Washington county, Pennsylvania, where John Scott grew to manhood and attended school and engaged in farming until he was twenty-one years old, when he settled on eighty acres in the woods of Columbiana county, Ohio, which tract he entered from the government. He began life there in true pioneer fashion, clearing and developing his land and there he spent the rest of his life. His family consisted of twelve children, five of whom are still living, Jason being the only one residing in this county.

Jason Scott grew up on the home farm where he worked hard when a boy. He received a limited education in the old-time rural schools of Columbiana county, Ohio, and when a young man learned the carpenter's trade at Lisbon, that state, and worked at the same until he enlisted for

service in the Civil War, in Company H, Thirty-eighth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, attached to the Army of the Cumberland, with which he saw much hard service, taking part in many battles and skirmishes during the period of his enlistment from September, 1861, to September, 1864, on which latter date he was honorably discharged. His first engagement was at Somerset, Kentucky; then followed Wildcat, Kentucky; Stone's River, Tennessee; Tallahoma, Corinth, Chickamauga and Jonesborough, being slightly wounded in the last-named battle in the arm and hip. After the war he went to Williams county, Ohio, and worked in a saw-mill there until 1867, when he came to Iowa, locating in Story county, where he worked as a farm hand until 1869, when he came to Plymouth county and entered eighty acres in Stanton township, which he improved into a valuable farm, adding to the same until he has one hundred acres, where he carried on general farming until 1903, when he retired from active life and moved to Le Mars, where he has since resided.

In 1872 Jason Scott was married to Mary Heston and to their union eleven children were born, only three of whom are now living, namely: William G., who married Alvira Voss; Ella Margaret, who lives at home, and Della, who married Sherman Stearne and has one child, a son, Ivan. Mr. Scott is a Republican and served for some time as school director in Stanton township. He is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic at Le Mars, and was formerly chaplain of the post. He belongs to the Methodist Episcopal church. He was the first permanent settler in Stanton township and is well known over the county, of which he is an honored pioneer.

FRANK LENERTZ.

Frank Lenertz, a native of Luxemburg, and now a well-known and prominent retired farmer of Remsen, this county, was born on July 23, 1844, the son of John and Anna (Tommes) Lenertz, also natives of Luxemburg, who spent their lives in that country. The father was a small farmer. He spent six years of his life in the Belgian army and took part in the war between Belgium and Holland. He and his wife were the parents of six children, two of whom are now living, Katherine and Frank.

Frank Lenertz received his schooling in the public schools of Luxemburg and there grew to manhood. He engaged in farming and continued thus engaged until he came to the United States in 1883, almost imme-

diately after his marriage. On his arrival in this country, he came direct to Iowa and located at Dubuque, where he remained but a short time, presently going to Jones county, where he purchased a farm of two hundred acres and there engaged in farming until 1888, in which year he came to Plymouth county and settled in section 1 of Union township, where he purchased three hundred acres of land at twenty-seven dollars and forty cents an acre. The land at that time was but partly developed and the improvements were poor. Mr. Lenertz at once began the task of putting his farm under cultivation, and presently erected the substantial buildings that are found there today. He was successful in his farming operations and gradually increased his holdings in land until he is now the owner of four hundred and eighty acres. In 1911 Mr. Lenertz retired from the activities of farm life and moved to Remsen, where he has a beautiful home and where he is enjoying to the fullest the life of a successful retired farmer and stockman. He rents his farms and continues to take much interest in their management.

On February 27, 1883, Frank Lenertz was united in marriage to Margaret Molitor, daughter of Wilhelm and Kate Molitor, and to this union four children have been born, Charles, Anna, Kate and Frank. Charles Lenertz married Hilda Brill and has three children, Hilaire, Oscar and Mayme. Anna Lenertz married Casper Zenk and has three children, W. Florence, Norbert and Walter. Kate Lenertz married John Keffeler and has one child, a daughter, Martha. Frank Lenertz, Jr., is still single and at home.

Mrs. Margaret Lenertz was born in Luxemburg and there received her education in the public schools and there grew to womanhood. Her father was a farmer and she was reared on the home farm. She was married to Frank Lenertz in their native land and soon after the marriage they came to the United States. She has assisted her husband in his various ventures in life and has been his constant aid and companion. They are devout members of the St. Mary's Catholic church at Remsen and have long been prominent in the social and the religious life of the community, where they are held in the highest regard and esteem by all who know them.

Mr. Lenertz is an independent voter, seeking the election of the best men to office. He is a patriotic citizen and enters warmly into the spirit of the government of his adopted country. His life has been an active one and he has accomplished much that is worthy of emulation. Coming to the United States with his wife, without financial support and among

strangers and amid new conditions, he has risen to a position of prominence, being recognized as one of the substantial and successful men of the county. He is a strong believer in public improvements and uses his influence to advance all worthy causes that have a tendency to promote the welfare of the community.

REV JOHN J. VOLLMAR.

The Rev. John J. Vollmar, pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran church at Le Mars, was born at White Willow, Minnesota, September 6, 1879, son of John and Lucy (Ruegg) Vollmar, natives of Germany, who are now living at Craig, this county, and who are the parents of four children, those besides the subject of this sketch, who is the second in order of birth, being Mrs. Fred Kusch, of Craig, this county; Mrs. Fred Townsend, of Detroit, Michigan, and O. F. Vollmar, of Commanche, Montana.

Receiving his parochial and public-school training in the schools at Michigan City, Indiana, John J. Vollmar then entered the Boys Academy at Columbus, Ohio, and followed a course there by attendance at Crystal University, in that same city, from which he was graduated in 1899, with the degree of Bachelor of Arts. Thus equipped by preparatory study, he entered the Lutheran Seminary of the Ohio Synod at Columbus and after a course of three years there was graduated in 1902, following which he was ordained to the ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran church, the ordination ceremony being performed at Detroit, Michigan. Following his ordination, the Rev. John J. Vollmar was given a charge at Pontiac, Michigan, where he organized a congregation and erected a church. After a year of arduous labor there he was compelled, on account of a severe attack of rheumatism, to give up his ministerial work and seek restoration to health through a change of climate. Through the influence of his brother-in-law, Fred Kusch, then a teacher in the Lutheran school in Grant township, this county, Mr. Vollmar was induced to accept a call to the Lutheran church at Le Mars, the congregation pledging him a salary of two hundred dollars a year. After six months of labor in his new field, Mr. Vollmar again was compelled by his old enemy, the rheumatism, to discontinue his ministerial labors, but through the kindness of one of his parishioners was enabled to spend a couple of months at the baths at Hot Springs, Arkansas, where he found relief from his ailment and was then able to return to his charge at Le Mars, where he ever since has been stationed and where he has done an excellent work, his parish having been



REV. JOHN J. VOLLMAR AND FAMILY

greatly strengthened in all ways under his ministrations, admirable progress being reported in all departments of the work of the church. Mr. Vollmar is a Republican and in addition to his parochial duties has ever found time to give his thoughtful attention to local civic affairs, and has served the public in the capacity of city councilman, filling the office for the term of 1913-15, and is a member of the library board.

On March 8, 1905, the Rev. John J. Vollmar was united in marriage to Kathryn Bauman, who was born at Grimes, this state, January 8, 1883, daughter of Jacob and Louise (Betz) Bauman, the former of whom died in 1902, and who were the parents of six children, those besides Mrs. Vollmar, the youngest, being as follow: John, Harry, Paul and Lottie Bauman, of Grimes, and Mrs. Emmet Kempton, of Highland Park. Mr. and Mrs. Vollmar have one child, a daughter, Charlene, born on July 5, 1911.

HENRY F. DREESZEN.

Henry F. Dreeszen, a farmer and landowner of Sioux township, this county and trustee of that township, was born on a farm in Muscatine county, this state, July 26, 1872, son of John Henry and Magdalena (Scheer) Dreeszen, natives of Germany, who came to Iowa in the spring of 1865 and spent the rest of their lives in this state.

John Henry Dreeszen was born in Holstein, a province of Prussia, and was married there on April 8, 1865, to Magdalena Scheer, also a native of Holstein, and the next day started with his bride for the United States, arriving at the port of New York on May 22 following. Upon their arrival in this country, John H. Dreeszen and his wife came directly to Iowa and located at Davenport, in the vicinity of which place the former found employment on a farm. He later took up the trade of stone mason and then moved to Wilton Junction, where he followed that trade until 1883, in which year he came over to this part of the state and bought a quarter of a section of land three and one-half miles west of Correctionville, in Woodbury county, which he proceeded to improve; and later bought another quarter section, which he also improved. In the fall of 1903, he bought a lot in Correctionville, built there a nice house and there he and his wife spent their last days, his death occurring in 1911 and hers in the spring of 1915. John H. Dreeszen was a Democrat and for eleven years served as treasurer of his school district, and also served for some time as road super-

visor. He and his wife were members of the Lutheran church and their children were reared in that faith. There were seven of these children, those besides the subject of this sketch being Otto, a fruit grower in Oregon; Ferdinand, Rudolph and three who died in infancy.

Henry F. Dreeszen was but a child when his parents moved from Muscatine county over to this part of the state and his schooling was completed in the schools of Woodbury county. He remained on the home farm in that latter county until he was grown and then, at the age of twenty years, rented a quarter of a section of land in that county and proceeded to farm on his own account. After his marriage in 1895 he established his home on that farm and there lived until about 1898, when he came up into Plymouth county and bought a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in section 13 of Sioux township, on which he made his home until he disposed of the same in 1915 and bought his present place of two hundred and sixty-six acres in section 2 of that same township, where he has since made his home and where he and his family are very pleasantly situated. In addition to his general farming Mr. Dreeszen gives considerable attention to the raising of high-grade live stock and is doing very well. He is a Democrat and for some years past has been serving as trustee of his home township. He also for a number of years was school director in his home district.

It was in 1895 that Henry F. Dreeszen was united in marriage to Harriet Riordan, of Woodbury county, this state, and to this union eight children have been born, Bryan, Archer, F. Thomas, Bernice, John, Merlin, Fern and Roy. The Dreeszens are members of the Lutheran church and take a proper interest in church affairs as well as in the general social activities of the community in which they live.

GEORGE HOTHAM.

The character of a community is determined in a large measure by the lives of a comparatively few of its members. If its moral and intellectual status be good; if in a social way it is a good place in which to reside; if its reputation for the integrity of its citizens has extended into other localities, it will be found that the standards set by the leading men have been high and their influence such as to mould the characters and shape the lives of those with whom they mingle. In placing George Hotham, of Le Mars, in the front rank of such men, justice is rendered a biographical

fact recognized throughout this locality by those who have come in contact with him during his residence here since the early pioneer days.

George Hotham was born in Scarboro, Yorkshire, England, April 14, 1862. He is a son of John and Mary (Roundell) Hotham, both natives of England. The father was an army man and was captain of a company of horse artillery in the British army for many years, finally retiring and locating on his estate, "Scaftworth," near Scarboro, where his death occurred in 1882 at the age of seventy years, his widow surviving until 1898, she reaching the age of seventy-two years. They were members of the Church of England. One of their sons is Admiral Sir Charles F. Hotham, G. C. B., K. C., V. O. He entered the English navy when thirteen years old, became a distinguished officer and retired in March, 1914, with the rank of admiral. He is now living in London. His brother, Col. John Hotham, of the horse artillery of the British army, has been a member of the same since he was twenty years old, and is now in the service in Cairo, Egypt. Another brother, Major William Hotham, is a member of the One Hundred and Seventh Infantry, having spent his life in the service, and is now (1916), at the front with the army in Europe. George Hotham, the subject of this sketch, was the next child in order of birth. The only daughter, Mary Hotham, is the youngest of the family, and is living in London.

George Hotham grew to manhood at Scarboro, England, and was given an excellent education, attending school at Rugby, also at Coblenz, Germany, and at Oxford University, from the latter of which he received the degree of Bachelor of Arts. He has continued a student all his life and is an exceptionally well-informed man, not only with reference to the world's best literature but on the current topics of the times; however, he is a plain, unassuming gentleman, with no desire for public leadership or the plaudits of his fellow men. Upon leaving the university Mr. Hotham came to the United States, proceeding on out to Iowa and locating on a farm ten miles south of Le Mars, where he engaged in general farming and stock raising successfully until he sold the place in 1886. He is now living in a beautiful and well-appointed modern house at 1306 Eagle street, in Le Mars.

On May 6, 1896, George Hotham was married to Louise Neumeister, who was born in Plymouth township, this county, where she grew to womanhood and attended school. She is a daughter of John C. and Caroline (Long) Neumeister, both natives of Germany, from which country they came to America and became pioneers in Plymouth county, engaging in farming here until they retired from active life some time ago. John C.

Neumeister is now living in Sioux City, his wife being deceased. They had seven children, namely: William, who is farming in Washington state; Caroline, the widow of Sam Callfas and lives in Le Mars; Anna, who married Walter Bolton and lives in South Dakota; Mary, who married Gus Schultz and is now deceased; Louise, wife of the subject of this sketch; George, who lives in Idaho; and Walter, who lives in Sioux City, Iowa.

To Mr. and Mrs. Hotham one son has been born, George Edward Hotham, whose birth occurred on March 20, 1906. Mr. Hotham is a member of the Fraternal Order of Eagles. His wife belongs to the German Methodist church.

GEORGE A. TOPPINGS.

George A. Toppings, the present efficient and popular county clerk of Plymouth county, has served his community well and has established a firm reputation for good citizenship, else he would not have been entrusted with the important office he now holds. He was born in this county on a farm where the present village of Akron now stands, November 25, 1872, a son of Moses W. and Theresa Toppings, the father a native of Missouri and the mother of Canada. Moses W. Toppings grew to manhood in his native state and attended schools there, but early in life came to Iowa and worked at the blacksmith's trade in Jackson county. When the Civil War broke out he enlisted in Company A, Eighth Missouri Cavalry, in which he served faithfully for three years. He continued to reside in Jackson county, Iowa, until 1870, when he settled where the village of Akron now stands. He enjoyed a good business as a blacksmith, being an exceptionally fine workman. He was the only blacksmith between Sioux City and Sioux Falls and many of his customers came from long distances. He continued to work at his trade until 1906, when he retired from active life and went to Marshalltown, Iowa, to spend his declining years in retirement. His family consisted of four sons, Harvey, Harry, Roy and George A.

George A. Toppings attended the public schools of Akron and when a boy began learning the blacksmith's trade under his father. He made rapid progress and became a highly-skilled workman. He continued working with his father in the shop at Akron until he was twenty-one years of age, when he established a shop of his own there, which he continued to run with ever growing success until 1897, when, seeking a larger field for his business, he removed to Le Mars and established a shop in the county seat.

After operating the same about ten years, in 1908, he was elected county clerk, which position he has since held, now serving his fourth term. He has discharged the duties of this office in a manner that has reflected much credit upon himself and to the general satisfaction of all concerned.

On October 18, 1893, George A. Toppings was married to Charlotte McCaustland, a daughter of Robert and Jennie McCaustland, and to this union one child has been born, a daughter, Inez, who married Roy Pierce and has one child, a son, Robert. Mr. Toppings is a Democrat. He belongs to the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and is a member of the Congregational church.

JAMES WILKINSON.

The late James Wilkinson is remembered as a man who had progressive ideas and who tried to follow the Golden Rule in his every-day intercourse with his fellow-men, and therefore he was held in the highest esteem by all who knew him. For a number of years he engaged in general farming in Plymouth county, later in the meat business in Le Mars.

James Wilkinson was born in Yorkshire, England, August 7, 1843, and was a son of John and Jane Wilkinson, both natives of that vicinity also, and there they grew up, were married and established their home on a farm. They finally came to the United States, locating at Big Patch, Wisconsin, where the father eventually became a large landowner and there he and his wife spent the rest of their lives. They were parents of eleven children, namely: David, William, John, Ellen, Thomas, Elizabeth, James, Anna, Mary, George, and Robert, all now deceased save Elizabeth and Robert.

James Wilkinson was young when his parents brought him to Wisconsin, where he grew up and attended the common schools, working with his father on the home farm until he was twenty-one years old, when he made the long overland journey across the plains to the California gold fields, near Sacramento, where he worked as a miner for two years, later walking with his companions over five hundred miles to the mountains of Idaho. He then returned to Wisconsin and married Elizabeth Rawson, of Big Patch. She died in Dubuque county, Iowa, in 1871, leaving two children, William, of Waterloo, Iowa, and Clara, deceased. In 1881 Mr. Wilkinson married Elizabeth Simpson, who was born at Dubuque, Iowa, a daughter of Robert and Margaret (Waters) Simpson, both natives of York-

shire, England, from which country they came with their parents to America when young, locating at Dubuque, Iowa, where they grew up and married. The father worked as a smelter there many years, and died at the age of sixty years. His widow survived until 1909, reaching the age of seventy-five years. They had four children, namely: John R., of Dubuque; Elizabeth, widow of the subject of this memoir; Anna, who lives in Dubuque, and Lola, who also makes her home in Dubuque. Two daughters were born to James Wilkinson by his second marriage, both deceased.

Mr. Wilkinson lived in Dubuque eighteen months after his marriage and then came to Plymouth county and bought one hundred and sixty acres in Grant township, where he engaged in general farming eight years; then moved to Le Mars and entered into partnership with John E. Conner in the meat business, which he conducted eight years, then sold out and retired in Le Mars, where he spent the rest of his life, his death having occurred at Dubuque, while on a visit, June 27, 1914. He was successful as a man of affairs and was honest and upright, therefore was trusted by all with whom he had dealings. He was a strong Republican. Mrs. Wilkinson lives in the old home place at Le Mars. She is a devout member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

ROBERT G. SMITH.

Success as a general farmer attended the efforts of Robert G. Smith to the extent that he is now able to spend his declining years in retirement in his modern home in Le Mars, having devoted his earlier life to tilling the soil in Plymouth county and in Wisconsin. He has been an advocate of advanced methods of agriculture and has been a close observer as well as a good manager.

Robert G. Smith was born in Sauk county, Wisconsin, September 12, 1842, a son of Quenton and Jeannette (Geddes) Smith, both natives of Ayrshire, Scotland. The father was a teacher in the village of Patna for twenty-three years, Prof. James McCosh, who was formerly president of Princeton University, having been one of his pupils there. In 1842 he brought his wife and three children to America, the voyage, in a sailing vessel, requiring three months. They came on West to Sauk county, Wisconsin, where the father resumed teaching, later moving to Caledonia, that state. Quenton Smith died at Portage, Wisconsin, in 1865, at the age of seventy years. His widow died in 1880, at the age of seventy-four years.

They were members of the Presbyterian church. He was an ardent temperance worker and a man of influence in his community. He was highly educated and was respected and admired by all who came in contact with him. To Quenton Smith and wife seven children were born, namely: Hutchinson, who married a Miss Rowley and died in California; Grace, who married Capt. James O'Neil; James Q., deceased, who was a veterinarian at Madison, Wisconsin, for a period of thirty-five years; Robert G., the subject of this review; Cornelia M., the wife of Evan Blacklock, of Kingaty, Missouri; Augusta A., the wife of Henry Godell, and Sarah Jane, who died in infancy.

Robert G. Smith received a home education, being taught by his sisters, for his parents were too poor to send him to college. On December 31, 1872, he married Emma L. Evarts, who was born at Lowville, Wisconsin, on May 29, 1848, a daughter of C. L. and Betsy (Snider) Evarts, both natives of the state of New York and pioneers of Columbia county, Wisconsin. Their daughter, Emma L., was the first white child born in that county. They began life there in typical pioneer fashion, their first home being a log hut in the forest. Indians and wild game were abundant. Mr. Everts was a bricklayer by trade, but he devoted most of his life to farming. His death occurred at the age of fifty, and that of his widow at the age of seventy-six. Nine children were born to them, three of whom died young, those who lived to maturity being Philo, Elbert O., Emeline, Sarah Jane, William H., and Emma L., wife of Mr. Smith, now the only survivor.

To Robert G. Smith and wife the following children have been born: Rev. Howard L. Smith, a Presbyterian clergyman, now in charge of the church at Albin, Iowa, who was educated at Storm Lake, Iowa, later graduating from Coe College, finishing at Omaha Seminary. Grace M., who married Charles Ayres, of Union township, this county; Quenton, deceased; Cornelia L., who lives at home, was graduated from Coe College and is a teacher in the public schools; Robert W., who is farming in Plymouth county, and Allen McCosh, who was graduated from the Le Mars high school and Ames College and is now teaching at Sheldon, Iowa.

Robert G. Smith lived at Lowville, Wisconsin, until in November, 1879, when he came to Plymouth county and bought one hundred and sixty acres of land in Union township, where he made a pronounced success as a general farmer and stock raiser. He increased his holdings to two hundred and forty acres and lived on the farm until 1914, when he retired from active life and built his present commodious home in Le Mars. Mr. Smith is a Prohibi-

tionist in sentiment, but votes the Republican ticket. While living in Union township he was secretary and treasurer of the school board. He belongs to the Presbyterian church and he and his wife were the principal founders of the first church of that denomination in Union township.

PATRICK FARRELL.

Patrick Farrell, attorney-at-law at Le Mars, is a native son of Iowa and has lived in this state all his life. He was born in a log cabin on a homestead farm in Benton county on June 1, 1859, son of John and Bridget (Kelly) Farrell, natives of Ireland, who came to this country about 1850 and located at Vicksburg, Mississippi. There John Farrell worked as a laborer for a time and then, about 1854, came to Iowa and entered a claim to a homestead in Benton county and there established his home, remaining there until his retirement from the farm and removal to Cedar Rapids, where he spent his last days, his death occurring in 1906. His widow is still living, being now in the eighty-ninth year of her age. They were the parents of nine children, of whom six are still living, those besides the subject of this sketch being as follow: Thomas Farrell, of Montana; James Farrell, of Cedar Rapids, this state; Michael Farrell, of Linn county, this state; John Farrell, of Perham, Minnesota, and Edward Farrell, of Cedar Rapids.

Reared on the family homestead farm in Benton county, Patrick Farrell received his elementary schooling in the neighboring district school, meanwhile assisting in the labors of the farm, and supplemented his local schooling by a course in the academy at Blainstown, after which he became a teacher in the public schools and was for several terms thus engaged. He then took a course in Cornell College at Mt. Vernon, this state, and upon the completion of the same entered the law department of the Iowa State University at Iowa City and was graduated from the same with the class of 1885. Thus equipped for the practice of his profession, Mr. Farrell opened an office, in July of that same year, at Le Mars and has ever since been engaged there in practice, long having been recognized as one of the leading lawyers in this part of the state. Not long after locating at Le Mars Mr. Farrell was elected justice of the peace and in 1889 was elected county attorney of Plymouth county, a position he held for six years. For the past sixteen years or more he has been a member of the library board and in other ways

has taken an active and influential part in the public affairs of the community in which he lives.

On June 19, 1886, Patrick Farrell was united in marriage to Katie Goulding, of Luzerne, this state, and to that union one child was born, a daughter, Catherine. Mrs. Katie Farrell died on January 12, 1888, and on January 25, 1892, Mr. Farrell married Katherine Murray, of Kingsley, this county, and to this union three children have been born, John J., Walter P. and Mary Edna. Mr. and Mrs. Farrell are members of the Catholic church and Mr. Farrell is a member of the Knights of Columbus. In his political affiliations he is a Democrat and has ever taken an earnest interest in the affairs of his party.

GEORGE J. KRAPFL.

The well-known lumber dealer, George J. Krapfl, of Kingsley, this county, is one of the enterprising citizens of that community, who owes his success in life to his own fighting qualities—the fighting ability that overcomes obstacles, although sometimes seemingly insurmountable.

George J. Krapfl was born in Dubuque county, Iowa, July 22, 1862, a son of Andrew and Katherine (Heisler) Krapfl. The father was born in Bavaria, Germany, from which country he came to America when young, with his parents, the family locating in Dubuque county, Iowa, where he spent the remainder of his life, at least the major portion of it. He conducted a lumber, coal and grain business at Dyersville for many years. His death occurred on May 6, 1885, at the age of fifty-nine years. His widow survived him more than thirty years, dying on March 13, 1916, at the advanced age of eighty-two. To these parents eleven children were born, John, George J., Anna, Joseph, Edward, and six others who are now deceased.

George J. Krapfl completed his schooling in the high school and on January 27, 1885, married Katie E. Luthmers, who was born in Dubuque county, Iowa, where she grew up and attended school. To this union the following children have been born: Albert M., who married Mamie Bradley and lives in Craig, this county; Mamie, who married Frank Martin and lives in Kingsley; Ulrich, of Spokane, Washington, and Lucile, Catherine, George and Frank, at home.

After his marriage Mr. Krapfl took charge of the Moore & Loring Lum-

ber Company's yards at Hinton, and at Kingsley, in turn; locating at Kingsley in 1883, but did not remain there long. However, he returned there in 1887, and has since had charge of the company's yards there, having been admitted as a partner in the firm in 1893. This yard was established in 1883 and is the oldest in that part of the county. It has been doing a large and growing business under the able management of Mr. Krapfl, who understands thoroughly every phase of the lumber business. Mr. Krapfl is a Democrat. He belongs to the Catholic church, in the faith of which he was reared.

GEORGE KELLY.

George Kelly, superintendent of the Plymouth county poor farm, was born on a farm in the vicinity of Galena, Illinois, January 1, 1868, son of Michael and Mary (Ward) Kelly, the former of whom was born in the state of California and the latter on the ocean while her parents were on their way from Ireland to this country, and both of whom died in Illinois.

As a young man Michael Kelly settled in the neighborhood of Galena, Illinois, and there remained, a farmer, the rest of his life, his death occurring when he was sixty-five years of age. His widow survived him many years, she having been eighty-five years of age at the time of her death on December 26, 1915. They were the parents of eleven children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the sixth in order of birth, the others being as follow: Edward, a well-known farmer living north of Remsen, in this county; Mary Jane, unmarried, who is living at Galena, Illinois; Michael, unmarried, also a resident of Galena; Joseph, also living at Galena; Emma, who married Jefferson Ellsworth and lives north of Remsen; John, who was killed while working in a saw-mill near East Dubuque, Illinois; James, who was killed while working in a mine in Montana; Henry, who died in his youth; Anna, deceased, and Conrad, who died in his youth.

George Kelly was reared on a farm and received but a limited education in the days of his youth, starting out at the age of twelve years to do for himself, working on farms. In 1883, he then being fifteen years of age, he came to Plymouth county and began working on farms in Fredonia township, after awhile renting a farm there and farming on his own account. In 1895 he married and continued to make his home in Fredonia township, farming there, until his appointment to the position of superintendent of the Plymouth county poor farm in the spring of 1913, since which time he has

made his home in the administration house of that excellent institution. Mr. Kelly has given his most thoughtful attention to the direction of affairs at the county farm and his administration has resulted in effecting numerous changes for the better in the management of the institution, his course giving satisfaction to all concerned. He is a Democrat and has ever taken an active part in local politics, for two years having served as director of his home school district.

It was on January 29, 1895, that George Kelly was united in marriage to Theresa Koob, of Fredonia township, a daughter of John and Eva (Bird) Koob, natives of Luxemburg and early settlers in Fredonia township, who were the parents of fourteen children, four of whom are now living, those besides Mrs. Kelly being Kate, of Sioux City, this state; Annie, who is living in Minnesota, and Joseph, of Ionia, Minnesota. The mother of these children died in 1878, at the age of thirty-nine, and the father married a second time. He died in 1893, at the age of sixty-five. To Mr. and Mrs. Kelly have been born five children, Roy, Joseph, Vincent, Oren and Ruth Ann. The Kellys are members of St. Catharine's Catholic church at Oyens and take a proper interest in the affairs of that parish.

JOHN HOFFMAN.

John Hoffman, a well-known and successful farmer and a former hotel proprietor at Remsen, was born in Luxemburg on December 10, 1848, the son of John and Mary Hoffman, also natives of Luxemburg, where they were married. The elder John Hoffman was a small farmer in his native land and he and his family continued to live in the Fatherland until 1871, when they came to Iowa and located in Mills county, where Mr. Hoffman purchased one hundred and twenty acres of land, which he developed and improved and there he engaged in general farming until the time of his death. He and his wife were prominent in the social and the religious life of that community, active members of the Catholic church and took much interest in church work. They were the parents of eleven children, eight of whom are now living, but of whom John and his brother, J. N. Hoffman, are the only ones who reside in Plymouth county.

The junior John Hoffman received his education in the public schools of his native Luxemburg, and in 1862, when fourteen years of age, he went to France, where he worked as a farm hand for six years, at the end of which

time he engaged in the butcher business and was thus engaged for two years. He was in the commissary department of the German army for a short time during the Franco-Prussian War of 1870. During his residence in France Mr. Hoffman learned to read and write the French language and is now able to read and write in German, French and English. In 1879 he decided to come to the United States. He located at Council Bluffs on January 3, 1871, and in that neighborhood was engaged as a farm hand for two years, after which he worked for his father for one year and was then married, after which he engaged in farming for himself. He rented a farm for four years in Mills county, after which he came to Plymouth county, locating on Deep creek, in Meadow township, where he rented for three years, after which he purchased one hundred and sixty acres in that township, paying for the same seven dollars an acre. He owned that farm a short time and then traded it for property in Remsen, where he established the well-known Hoffman House, which he conducted successfully until 1903, when he sold the place and engaged in the butcher business for two years. He then retired from the butcher business and bought eighty acres of land, a part of which is in the city limits of Remsen, and is considered the most valuable farm land in that section of the county. There he and his son are engaged in general farming and the raising of fine Jersey hogs, having some of the best hogs in the county. They take much pride in their stock, are careful of their breeding and give their hogs the best of care.

On January 7, 1874, John Hoffman was united in marriage to Margaret Kraber, and to this union eleven children have been born, eight of whom are now living, Margaret, J. N., Lena, Mary, Francis, Henry, Katherine and Etta. Margaret Hoffman married Frank Wentz. Mary Hoffman married Doctor Stewart. Francis Hoffman is teaching school at Casper, Wyoming. Henry Hoffman lives at Los Angeles, California. Katherine Hoffman is a Red Cross nurse, serving with the United States army on the Mexican border, and Etta Hoffman is a trained nurse. The family are active members of the Catholic church and are prominent in the social and the religious life of the community, highly regarded by all who know them.

John Hoffman has always taken much interest in local affairs, and has ever advocated the maintenance of the best of schools. In the early history of the township he, with Mr. Aline and Martin Seibold, were instrumental in the establishment of the first parochial school in Remsen. Mr. Hoffman was president of the school board for nine years and served as trustee of Remsen township for a number of years. He is identified with the Demo-

cratic party and is recognized as one of the substantial and successful men of the county. He is perhaps one of the best-known men in his section of the country and has a personality that identifies him as a man of ability and a leader in whatever he undertakes. He has had much to do with the development and the growth of the township and the city of Remsen, where he is so well and favorably known.

PETER C. SHEARON.

No more enterprising or useful citizens have come from any foreign strand to this great western Republic than those who hail from the fair Emerald Isle. They have done much toward the general progress of nearly all of our forty-eight sisterhood of states and we find them filling high and important positions in the industrial and civic worlds. Among those who have settled in Plymouth county is Peter C. Shearon, who is now living in retirement in Le Mars after a successful life as a general farmer.

Peter C. Shearon was born in County Donegal, Ireland, November 15, 1852. He is a son of Dennis and Bridget (Coyle) Shearon, both natives of County Donegal, where they grew to maturity, were married and later established their home twelve miles from the city of Derry. They lived and died on a farm there. Seven children were born to them, namely: Patrick, who lives in Marcus, Iowa; Barney, deceased; James, who died in Colorado; Michael, who died in Ireland; Ellen, who lives in Mendota, Illinois; Catherine, who died when eighteen years of age, and Peter C., the subject of this sketch.

Peter C. Shearon spent his early boyhood in his native land, being thirteen years old when, in 1865, he came to America with his brothers, James and Michael. He attended the high school in Bureau county, Illinois, and spent two terms at the normal school at Valparaiso, Indiana, working his way through school. He worked out as a farm hand for some time, and in 1881 came to Iowa and bought one hundred and sixty acres in Lincoln township, Plymouth county, for which he paid twenty dollars an acre. He later returned to Illinois, but returned to this county in 1887, locating at Remsen; later going to his farm in Lincoln township, which he placed under good improvements and on which he carried on general farming and stock raising with success, later buying one hundred and sixty acres in America township, on which he lived for fifteen years, at the end of which time he bought one hundred and

thirty-five acres west of Le Mars where he lived until the spring of 1916 when, having accumulated a competency, he retired from active life and moved to Le Mars, where he owns a beautiful home on Howard street.

In 1887 Peter C. Shearon was married to Nora E. Hannon, a native of Bureau county, Illinois, and a daughter of Michael and Catherine (Loyd) Hannon, both natives of Ireland, from which country they came to America and settled on a farm in Bureau county, Illinois, where they spent the rest of their lives. They were the parents of nine children, namely: Timothy (deceased), Ellen, John, Owen, Patrick, Michael (deceased), Nora E., Susan and Mary.

To Mr. and Mrs. Shearon five children have been born, namely, Mary Ellen, who married Mat Losch, of America township, this county, and has one child, Mary Marie; James W., who is operating the home farm; John H., a member of Company K, Second Regiment, Iowa National Guard, now (1916) with the troops on the Mexican border; Josephine, who is at home, and Joseph, deceased. Mr. Shearon is an independent voter and has never aspired to public office. He belongs to the St. James Catholic church.

JOHN A. CAMPBELL.

If the husbandman is fortunate enough to have the true vision of farming, and starts out to make it a reality, he will certainly find the business of agriculture a most profitable one and will urge his backward acres into activity that will make them produce a hundred-fold. The highest grades of live stock will be found about his barns. He will acquire labor-saving and pleasure-giving machinery and modern equipment of various kinds. One of the farmers of Marion township, this county, who believes in adopting twentieth-century methods is John A. Campbell.

John A. Campbell was born in Canada, August 12, 1859, a son of John and Mary Campbell, both natives of Canada, where they grew up and married and spent their lives on a farm there. Five children were born to them, four of whom still survive, the subject of this sketch being the only one living in the United States.

John A. Campbell grew to manhood on the home farm in Canada, where he worked hard when a boy. He received a meager education, leaving school when quite young, and started working out at a wage of four dollars a month as a farm hand. When twenty-seven years old he came to Iowa,

locating in Plymouth county, and here worked as a farm hand for one year, at the end of which time he rented a farm in Washington township. He continued to farm rented land for twenty-two years and then bought one hundred and sixty acres in Marion township, which he still owns, carrying on general farming and stock raising. He has made many important improvements on his place, including the erection of a commodious home. He feeds all his grain to hogs and cattle, preparing about two carloads of hogs for the market annually.

In 1883 John A. Campbell was married to Elizabeth Ann Remington, and to that union three children were born, Mary Ann, deceased; Charlotte Emma, who married Peter Peterson and has one child, a son, John, and John Henry Malcolm, who is with his father on the home farm. The mother of these children died on July 21, 1909, at the age of sixty years, her birth having occurred in 1849. Mr. Campbell is a Democrat and has served as school director.

GEORGE MURRAY.

George Murray, a well-to-do retired farmer of Sioux county, this state, now living at Le Mars, is a native of the Dominion of Canada, but has been a resident of Iowa since the year 1881 and has consequently been a witness to and a participant in the wonderful development that has marked this region during the past thirty-five years. He was born on a farm in Ontario on November 27, 1852, son of James and Mary Jane (Moir) Murray, both natives of Scotland, who came across the water in the days of their youth and located in Ontario, where they were married and where they spent the remainder of their lives, prosperous farming people. Mrs. Mary Jane Murray died in 1903 and her husband survived her about five years, his death occurring on February 8, 1908. They were the parents of ten children, seven of whom are now living, but of whom the subject of this sketch is the only one living in the United States.

Reared on the home farm in Ontario, George Murray received his schooling in the schools of that neighborhood and upon reaching manhood's estate took up farming on his own account, remaining there until his marriage in the fall of 1881, when he and his bride came to Iowa, locating in Sioux county, where they remained until their retirement from the farm and removal to Le Mars, where they are now living. Upon coming to this state, Mr. Murray bought a half section of land in Sherman township, Sioux

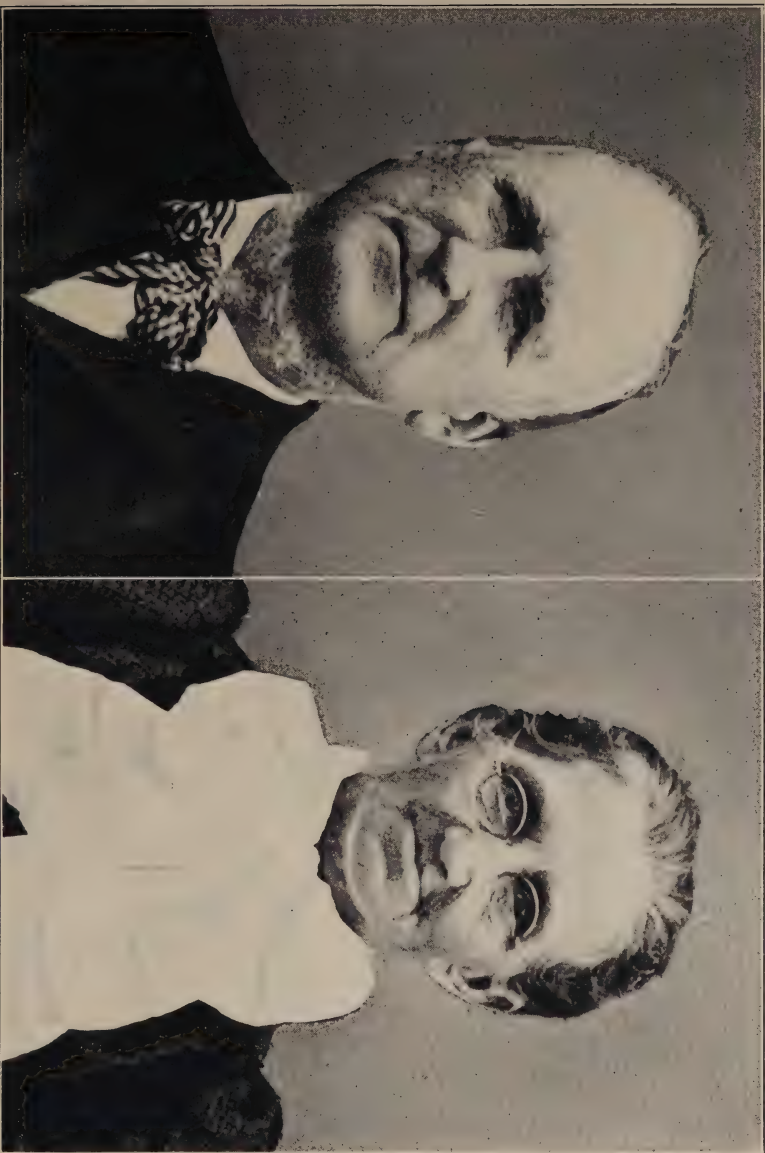
county, paying seven dollars an acre for the same, and there established his home. He broke the sod, planted a grove, erected a good set of buildings and developed a fine farm. As he prospered in his operations, Mr. Murray enlarged his land holdings and now, in addition to his fine farm in Sioux county, is the owner of three hundred and twenty acres of land in Wadena county, Minnesota. Upon retiring from the farm and moving to Le Mars he bought a comfortable home in the city and there he and his wife are very pleasantly situated.

It was on September 28, 1881, that George Murray was united in marriage, in his native Ontario, to Matilda McLaren, also a native of Canada, daughter of Robert and Mary McLaren. Mr. and Mrs. Murray are members of the Presbyterian church and Mr. Murray is a member of the board of trustees of the same. He is a Democrat and gives a good citizen's attention to local political affairs, but has never been a seeker after public office.

THOMAS STOKES.

"Lest we forget," as the poet Kipling admonishes us in his superb "Recessional," regarding a number of important things that should not be forgotten, this tribute to the memory of the late Thomas Stokes is penned. Pioneer agriculturalist of Plymouth county, a public-spirited, courageous, kindly, generous man, it is the desire of the biographer, as it must be of all who knew him, that his deeds and his character be recorded for the benefit of those who follow after.

Thomas Stokes was born in Dublin, Ireland, in the year 1825, and there he grew to manhood and attended school, emigrating to America when he was about twenty years old, coming alone, and locating at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where he worked as a laborer. In 1860 he came West, locating in Jackson county, Iowa, where he bought a farm which he operated for ten years, at the end of which time he came to Plymouth county, among the early settlers, forty-six years ago, arriving here in March, 1870. He made the trip from the East on a boat down the Ohio river and up the Mississippi to Dubuque. He homesteaded eighty acres of wild land in section 14 of Stanton township, broke the prairie and made the necessary improvements, developing a good farm. He first erected a rude little dwelling and makeshift outbuildings, but these in due time gave way to substantial farm buildings, and as he prospered he added to his original eighty until he had



MR. AND MRS. THOMAS STOKES

a fine farm of four hundred acres. He became one of the leading farmers of Stanton township and continued general farming and stock raising there on a large scale until he retired from active life, having accumulated a comfortable competence. He moved to Le Mars, where he bought a good home in which he lived until his death in June, 1910. He was a well-known and influential man in this county for over three decades, and was the head of the present large and well-known Stokes family of this section of Iowa. He took an interest in public affairs, was a staunch Democrat, served as justice of the peace in Stanton township in 1871, and also served as clerk of the township and as trustee.

In 1859 Thomas Stokes was married to Margaret Croft, and to their union eleven children were born, nine of whom are living at this writing, namely: A. T. Stokes, of Marion township; Mrs. John V. Harker, of Le Mars; Alice, widow of the late George H. Harker, of Le Mars; Mrs. Chris Michelson, of America township; Mrs. James Watson, of America township; Mrs. Albert Werth, of Le Mars; William Stokes, of California, and Charles and Lewis Stokes, who are making their home with their mother in Le Mars.

HANS ERICKSON.

No people that go to make up our cosmopolitan population have better habits of life than those who come originally from the Scandinavian peninsula. The Swedes and the Norwegians are distinguished for their thrift, courage, perseverance and honesty, and these qualities in the inhabitants of any country will in the end make that country great. When with these attributes is coupled that other quality of sound sense, which the people from that far-away northern clime seem to possess, there are afforded such qualities as will enrich any land and place it at the top of the countries of the world in the scale of elevated humanity. One of this number is Hans Erickson, a retired farmer of Le Mars.

Hans Erickson was born at Tranamo, Sweden, March 27, 1848, a son of Erick and Cassie (Hanson) Everson, both natives of the town of Tranamo also, where they grew up and married and spent their lives. They belonged to the Lutheran church and were the parents of the following children: John, who is farming in Grant township, Plymouth county; Anna, who remained in Sweden; Johannas, who also lives in Sweden; Carolina, who lives in Sweden; Lena, who is a resident of Sioux City, Iowa;

and Hans, the subject of this sketch, who was the third child in order of birth.

Hans Erickson spent his boyhood in Sweden, where he attended the public schools. He assisted his father with the work on the home farm until he was twenty-two years old. In 1872 he and his sister Lena came to America. Their brother John had preceded them to this country the year before and after spending two years in Illinois had come to this county and had secured eighty acres of land in section 32 of Grant township, where he is still living. Hans Erickson spent the first year after his arrival in this country at Chicago and he then came to this county and located on a homestead in section 32 of Grant township. There he developed a good farm, on which he made all the improvements, and carried on general farming and stock raising until 1914, when he retired from active life and moved to Le Mars, buying one of the finest homes in the city; but he still owns his excellent farm of two hundred acres in Grant township. His son Arthur (deceased) also owned a half section of land in that vicinity, which Mr. Erickson now owns. Before leaving the country Mr. Erickson and his son were extensive breeders and feeders of Shorthorn cattle, also a good grade of horses and hogs. He has been quite successful in a business way, accumulating by his own efforts a comfortable competency. He owns one hundred and sixty acres at Centerville, South Dakota, and helped organize the elevator company at Brunsville, Iowa.

In February, 1879, Hans Erickson was married to Ellen Olson, a native of Sweden, and a daughter of Anders Olson and wife, natives of Sweden, who came to America in 1872, locating in Centerville, South Dakota, where they spent the rest of their lives, each reaching the advanced age of eighty-two years, his death occurring in 1900 and hers in 1913. They were parents of the following children: Andrew, now deceased, who lived in Hurley, South Dakota; John, who lives at Centerville, South Dakota, married Ida Hanson; Anna, who died in 1914, was the wife of Hans Hanson, and lived at Wacanda, South Dakota, and Ellen, wife of Mr. Erickson.

To Mr. and Mrs. Erickson were born five children, Alma Elizabeth, Arthur, Anna, Ida and Ellen Josephine. Alma Elizabeth Erickson married Malcolm Fredell, of Brunsville, Iowa, and has one son, Francis. Arthur Erickson, who was accidentally drowned at Brunsville, Iowa, July 14, 1914, while trying to rescue Collins Brodie from drowning, was a farmer, who dealt extensively in live stock and also owned stock in the elevator at Brunsville. He married Mae Brodie and to their union one son was born, Wallace

W. Anna Erickson, who lives at home, was educated in the local schools and later attended a training school for nurses in Chicago one year. Ida Erickson also lives at home. Ellen Josephine Erickson is a teacher in the schools of Plymouth county. These children were all well educated, having attended the local public schools and the Western Union College at Le Mars.

Mr. Erickson is a Republican and while living in Grant township he served as school director. He is a member of the Presbyterian church. On July 13, 1912, he and his two daughters, Alma and Ida, started for Europe and made an extended tour through Sweden, Denmark and England, also touching numerous other places of interest, spending three months abroad. They crossed the Atlantic in the steamship "Lusitania", which later was sunk by a submarine during the present European War.

EMIL LAUX.

Emil Laux, senior member of the firm of Laux & Lucke, general merchandise, at Le Mars, and one of the oldest merchants in point of continuous service in that city, is a native of the old Hoosier state, but has been a resident of Le Mars since he was twelve years of age and has been engaged in the mercantile business ever since coming to this county, and has been located at his present stand in Le Mars for more than thirty-five years, thus being recognized as one of the pioneer merchants of the county. He was born on a farm in Lake county, Indiana, June 2, 1862, son of Stephen S. and Anna Mary (Musbach) Laux, the former of whom was a native of Germany, who came to the United States in 1848 and located on a farm in Lake county, Indiana, where he spent the rest of his life. It was after he came to this country that Stephen S. Laux was married to Anna Mary Musbach and to that union four children were born, George, John, Mary, William and Emil. The father of these children died on March 28, 1872, he then being fifty-eight years of age, and his widow survived him for twenty-five years, her death occurring in 1897, at the age of seventy-two.

It was in 1877 that Emil Laux came to Iowa from Indiana and, in partnership with his brothers, John and William, engaged in the general mercantile business at Le Mars, under the firm name of Laux Brothers, which arrangement continued until 1890, when Emil Laux bought the interests held by his brothers in the business and was engaged in business alone for two years, at the end of which time he admitted as a partner E. C. Lucke,

who had come here from Schaller, Sac county, Iowa, and the firm has since been known as Laux & Lucke, one of the best-established mercantile firms in this part of the state. Mr. Lucke has charge of the dry goods department of the store and Mr. Laux has charge of the grocery department, the firm carrying a stock valued at about twenty thousand dollars. The store occupies a building seventy-two by seventy-six feet in dimensions and is well equipped for carrying on business in up-to-date fashion.

Mr. Laux has been twice married. On March 28, 1890, he was united in marriage to Eva Lucke, who died on October 20, 1903, leaving two children, Elnore and Gladys. Mr. Laux then married Mrs. Hoorney, widow of the Rev. C. H. Hoorney, who was a minister of the German Methodist Episcopal church, and who by her first marriage was the mother of four children, Victor, Alvin, Levi and Selma. Mr. and Mrs. Laux are members of the German Methodist Episcopal church and take a warm interest in the affairs of the same, Mr. Laux being one of the district stewards and an active worker in the Sunday school. He is a member of the Commercial Club of Le Mars and one of the city's most earnest "boosters," ever active in promoting such movements as are designed to advance the common welfare. He has a pleasant home at 1418 Franklin street and he and his family are very comfortably situated there.

AHMEL P. DORNBUSCH.

It seems that Ahmel P. Dornbusch, retired farmer of Le Mars, realized when starting out in life that it took industry, perseverance and honor to win, and these elements of character have had much to do with shaping his subsequent career; for he learned to rely upon himself, observe closely those things which could be of service to him and therefore by his own efforts he advanced from an humble environment in a foreign land to a comfortable and worthy position in the New World.

Ahmel P. Dornbusch was born on May 11, 1859, in Oldenburg, Germany, a son of Martin R. and Trinke (Brunken) Dornbusch, both natives of Oldenburg, where they grew up, married and established the family home, and where the death of the father occurred in 1870, at the age of fifty-five years. The mother brought her children to America in the spring of 1871, settling in Sterling, Illinois, where they resided for a period of fifteen years, then came to Iowa, locating in Fredonia township, Plymouth county, where

her death occurred in the spring of 1916, at the advanced age of eighty-seven years, she having thus survived her husband forty-six years. She was a member of the Lutheran church. Her family consisted of six children, named as follow: Teda, deceased; John R., who is a retired farmer living at Millbank, South Dakota; Ahmel P., the subject of this sketch; Jarke B., who is a retired farmer and lives at Paullina, Iowa; Anna, who is the widow of John Mews and lives at Paullina, and Ina, a retired farmer, also making his home at Paullina.

Ahmel P. Dornbusch spent his early boyhood in Germany and was twelve years of age when he accompanied the rest of the family to America. He attended the common schools in his native land, also in Illinois, and remained with his mother, helping support the family, until he was twenty-three years old; then took up farming for himself at Sterling, Illinois, where he remained until 1886, in which year he removed to Iowa, buying raw land in Fredonia township, Plymouth county, which he cleared and developed into a good farm and on which he carried on general farming and stock raising for a period of twenty-two years, then bought one hundred and sixty acres two miles south of Le Mars and lived there five years. He moved to Le Mars in 1911, buying his present comfortable home and nine acres surrounding it on West Sixth street. He still owns his fine farm of two hundred and forty acres in Fredonia township, also land in Miner county, South Dakota. He is deserving of a great deal of credit for what he has accomplished through hard work and his own unaided efforts, for he started out upon an unpromising future, having no capital or assistance. He has managed well and has been quite successful.

On October 8, 1882, Ahmel P. Dornbusch was married in Illinois to Matilda M. Oltmanns, a native of Germany, from which country she came to America in 1881. To this union the following children have been born: Martin, who is farming near Le Mars; Mary, who married John Hanno and lives on a farm in Miner county, South Dakota; Ahmel P., Jr., who is farming near Le Mars; Margaret lives at home; Clara, who married Jacob Wanner, a farmer of this county; Edward, who is farming in Plymouth county; Annie, who is at home; Albert, who is also with his parents, and Elsie, who also is still a member of the family circle. These children were all educated in the common schools of Plymouth county.

Mr. Dornbusch is a Democrat and has been active in public affairs. He has been trustee of his township, was also school director of his district and is now serving his second term as a member of the city council of Le Mars. He is a member of St. John's Lutheran church at Le Mars.

GEORGE W. BURRILL.

More than eighty years have dissolved in the mists of the irrevocable past since George W. Burrill, a venerable and honored pioneer of Iowa, now living in retirement in Le Mars, first saw the light of day. He has lived through one of the most remarkable, and, in many respects, the most wonderful epochs in the world's history. There will never be another like it, for it embraced the period when the strong-armed homeseekers from Eastern states invaded the great West (he being among the number) and redeemed it from the wilderness, bringing it up through various stages to the present high state of civilization.

George W. Burrill was born at Rochester, New York, January 17, 1836. He is a son of George Burrill, a native of England, who immigrated to Canada in 1832, but in 1835 settled in Rochester, New York, and in 1837 went to Stark county, Ohio, where he farmed on rented land. He came to Iowa in 1846 and secured wild land in Dubuque county, which he developed into a farm and on which he established his home, remaining there until 1884, when he came to Plymouth county and bought a farm in Liberty township, on which he spent the rest of his life, dying there in 1892, at an advanced age. He had always farmed. While living in the state of New York he married Mary Dolan, a native of Queens county, Ireland. Her death occurred in Ohio in 1844. She belonged to the Methodist Episcopal church. To that union were born four children, namely: George W., the subject of this sketch, and John, Robert and Mary, the last three of whom are all deceased.

George W. Burrill grew up on the home farm, on which he worked hard when a boy. He had little chance to obtain an education, for he grew up in a pioneer environment, where schools were scarce and during a time when boys had to work hard helping their parents establish new homes in new regions. He remained at home until he was twenty-one years old, then took up farming for himself in Dubuque county, Iowa, where he remained until 1882, when he came to Plymouth county and bought one hundred and sixty acres in Johnson township, which land he improved and there carried on general farming for a period of nineteen years. In 1902 he retired from active life, having been successful as a general farmer, and moved to Le Mars where he still resides.

In 1856 George W. Burrill was married to Martha Austin, a native of County Down, Ireland, from which country she came to the United States

in 1849. Her death occurred in February, 1913. To Mr. and Mrs. Burrill eleven children were born, namely: John, deceased; Robert B., who lives in Sioux City; George H., who lives in Plymouth county; Mary, who makes her home in Pocatello, Idaho; Sadie, who lives at Woonsocket, South Dakota; W. W., who is a resident of Akron, this county; J. W., who lives in Sheldon, this state; Emma, who is at home; Ida, who lives in Le Mars; Martha Agnes, who lives in South Dakota, and Edith, who makes her home in Oregon City, Oregon. These children were all educated in the common schools of Plymouth county.

Mr. Burrill is a Democrat, but has never been very active in public affairs. He served as school director while on the farm. He belongs to the Presbyterian church. He is a well preserved man.

NIC WILTGEN.

Nic Wiltgen, coroner of Plymouth county, proprietor of an undertaking establishment and art store at Le Mars and one of the best-known and most substantial business men of that city, is a native of Europe, but has been a resident of Plymouth county since he was twenty-one years of age. He was born in the grand duchy of Luxemburg on August 19, 1860, son of George and Elizabeth (Winandy) Wiltgen, natives of Germany, whose lives were spent in their native land.

Upon arriving at his majority Nic Wiltgen left his native land and came to the United States, proceeding on out to Iowa and arriving in Plymouth county on November 12, 1881. He had friends here and he at once began work as a cabinet-maker, a trade he had learned in his youth, and was thus engaged for four years, or until his marriage in 1885, shortly afterward engaging in the undertaking business at Le Mars and has ever since been thus engaged. For some time after establishing himself in business Mr. Wiltgen also carried a line of furniture, but he later disposed of that interest and has since confined himself to his undertaking business and general cabinet-making, but carries a nice line of art goods, in connection with which he makes a specialty of picture-framing. In April, 1913, Mr. Wiltgen was appointed coroner of Plymouth county to fill an unexpired term and in the following campaign of 1914 was nominated by the Democrats as their candidate for that office; was elected and in 1916 was re-nominated by his party.

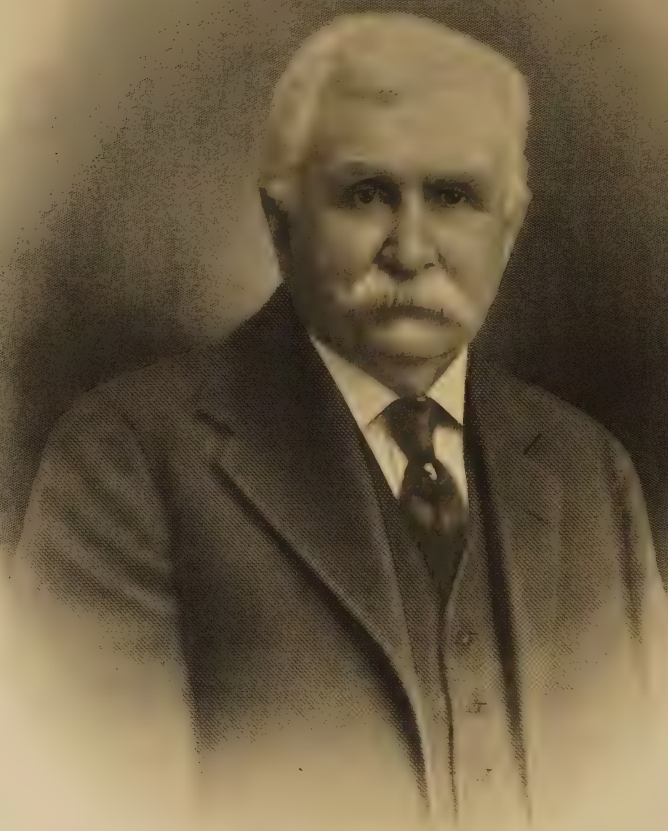
It was on October 21, 1885, that Nic Wiltgen was united in marriage at Le Mars to Katherine Wanderscheid, who was born in Luxemburg and who came to this country about eighteen months after the arrival of Mr. Wiltgen, and to this union seven children have been born, Katherine, Elizabeth, Anna, Mary, Margaret, Louise and Peter. Mr. and Mrs. Wiltgen are members of the Catholic church and he is affiliated with the Knights of Columbus and with the Catholic Order of Foresters.

GEORGE H. PHELPS.

George H. Phelps, president of the Kingsley Bank at Kingsley, this county, and for years one of the best-known and most influential business men in that part of the county, is a pioneer of Plymouth county, having been a resident of Kingsley since the days of the very beginning of that now flourishing little city, at first a lumber dealer there and then a banker and landowner, long having been regarded as one of the most substantial citizens of this county. Mr. Phelps is a native of the great Empire state, having been born at Crown Point, New York, May 4, 1833, son of Harvey and Martha (Peabody) Phelps, natives of New Hampshire, whose last days were spent in the state of New York.

Harvey Phelps was born at Newport, New Hampshire, and there he married Martha Peabody, born at that same place, daughter of Ami Peabody and wife, well-to-do farming people, whose last days were spent in that state. Harvey Phelps later settled at Crown Point, New York, where he engaged in the lumber business and also became an extensive landowner, the owner of three farms, and where he died in 1843. He and his wife were the parents of four children, of whom the subject of this sketch, the second in order of birth, was the only one to come to Iowa, the others being Henry, John and Hiram.

George H. Phelps was reared at Crown Point, New York, receiving his schooling there and in the days of his boyhood became thoroughly familiar with the details of the lumber business through his connection with his father's lumber yard. There he remained until 1866, in which year he came West and settled at Franklin Grove, Illinois, where he remained for a couple of years, at the end of which time he came to Iowa, which ever since has been his place of residence. Upon coming to this state Mr. Phelps settled on a farm in Cedar county and remained there for some years, or until the



GEORGE H. PHELPS



MRS. GEORGE H. PHELPS

Northwestern railroad made its way out to this part of the state, when he came out here and located in the new town of Kingsley, where he ever since has resided. Upon taking up his residence in Kingsley Mr. Phelps opened a lumber yard there and was engaged in the lumber business for four or five years, at the end of which time he sold his lumber yard and on April 15, 1889, bought the interest of John A. Heeran in the Kingsley Bank, an institution which had been established at Kingsley in September, 1883, by D. A. Oltmann and Mr. Heeran, and ever since he and Mr. Oltmann have been the owners of the bank, Mr. Phelps for years being president of the same; and have in that time made the Kingsley Bank one of the most widely recognized financial institutions in this part of the state. In addition to his banking and other interests in and about Kingsley, Mr. Phelps has also been a considerable investor in real estate and is now the owner of more than twelve hundred acres of land in Plymouth county. He also has ever taken an interest in local civic affairs and was a member of the first council of the city of Kingsley, upon the organization of the same.

While still living at Crown Point, New York, George H. Phelps was united in marriage to Mary M. Brooks, who was born at that place, daughter of John B. and Phoebe (Reynolds) Brooks, and to this union three children have been born, Ellen, John and Alice. Despite the fact that he is now past eighty-three years of age, Mr. Phelps retains his mental and physical vigor in a marked degree and continues to take an active interest not only in the affairs of his bank and of his other interests in this county, but in the general commercial and civic affairs of the community and has for many years been one of the leading spirits in the promotion of the best interests of Plymouth county.

T. B. GALLAGHER.

T. B. Gallagher, a well-known and successful grain buyer, of Le Mars, was born in Oneida county, in the state of New York, November 21, 1853, the son of Patrick and Sarah (Gallagher) Gallagher, who, though bearing the same surname bore no blood relationship.

Patrick Gallagher was a native of Ireland, and there received his schooling and grew to manhood. Upon coming to the United States he for a time located in the state of New York, later moving to Wisconsin, where he remained for a few years; and then to the eastern part of Minne-

sota, where he engaged in general farming for three years. He then, in 1869, came to Iowa and the next year homesteaded a farm in America township, this county, where he made his home until the time of his death. On coming to Plymouth county, Patrick Gallagher came with horses and oxen and was, in a way, prepared to enter into the task of developing his farm, which at that time was, for the most part, wild prairie. Being a man of ability and energy, he soon had his tract under cultivation and in time erected good and substantial buildings. He engaged in general farming and stock raising, in which he was quite successful, and in addition to his farm of one hundred and sixty acres in this county, he became the owner of six hundred and forty acres in South Dakota. Mr. Gallagher took much interest in the affairs of the township and the county and was regarded as a man of pronounced ideas and of much influence. His death occurred on October 21, 1889, at the age of sixty-five years, and his widow survived him until 1907, when her death occurred, at the age of seventy years. They were the parents of nine children, Ellen, T. B., Mary (deceased), Sarah (deceased), Hannah, Henry, Frank, Anna (deceased) and Joseph. Mr. and Mrs. Gallagher were devout members of the Catholic church and reared their family in that faith.

T. B. Gallagher received his education in the local schools and attended the first school at Le Mars for one year. He grew to manhood on the home farm, where as a lad he assisted his father with the work on the farm. On December 30, 1886, he was united in marriage to Mary Deveny and to this union two children have been born, Meda and Vivian, the latter of whom married Lewis Blaire and has one child, a son, Robert.

Soon after their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Gallagher moved to Le Mars, where Mr. Gallagher engaged in the buying of grain, in which work he is still engaged. During this time he has bought grain for the Gehlen Milling Company, the Farmers Elevator Company and the Plymouth Milling Company, and is now with the Le Mars Grain Company. He has devoted his time to the business and is today recognized as one of the best grain men in this county. The grain business is one of the big propositions of this section of the country and has to do with a large part of the population. By his business methods and courteous treatment of his customers, Mr. Gallagher has won the confidence and the respect of all, there being few farmers in the community who do not know him and all hold him in the highest regard.

In addition to his work on the farm and in the grain business, T. B.

Gallagher, when a young man, traveled with a threshing machine in the seventies and had as one of his partners in the work, W. S. Freeman. Mr. Gallagher and his family are active members of the Catholic church and have long been prominent in the social and the religious life of the community. He is a member of the Knights of Columbus and takes much interest in the work of that order. Mr. Gallagher has always taken much interest in the civic life of the community and has ever exerted his influence in behalf of the growth and the betterment of the community in which he lives.

The old homestead of Patrick Gallagher is now at the edge of the city of Le Mars and is still held by the family as an estate. It was one of the first farms developed in the community, and today is one of the attractive places in the township.

PAUL NUEBEL.

Paul Nuebel, one of the best-known former merchants of Le Mars, now living comfortably retired at his pleasant home at 207 Main street, that city, a pioneer school teacher in Iowa and for years a substantial farmer in Black Hawk county, but a resident of Le Mars since the year 1898, is a native of Germany, but has been a resident of this country since the latter sixties. He was born in the town of Büren, in the province of Westphalia, February 18, 1842, son of William and Dorothy Nuebel, also natives of Westphalia, the former of whom for fifty years was schöttmeister, or treasurer, of his district, having had practically a life tenure in the office, and both of whom spent all their lives in their native country. William Nuebel and wife were the parents of six children, of whom the subject of this sketch is now the sole survivor.

Reared amid excellent conditions in his native town, Paul Nuebel received his elementary schooling in the schools of his home town, supplementing the same by a course in the "gymnasium", or high school at Warburg, and when about nineteen years of age engaged in the grocery business and was thus engaged for a couple of years, at the end of which time he entered upon his term of service in the German army. Upon completing that term of service he resumed his grocery business and so continued until called to the colors at the time of the Austro-German War in 1866. Upon the conclusion of that war and his release from service, Mr. Nuebel decided

to come to the United States. He sailed from Bremen and in due time arrived at Baltimore, proceeding thence to Freeport, Illinois, at which place lived some of his old-country acquaintances, and for three years thereafter was engaged there as a clerk in a general merchandise store, during which time he acquired a thorough acquaintance with the English language and with the manners and customs of the people of his adoption. Meantime he had been fitting himself as a teacher and at the end of the time above mentioned came to Iowa, locating at Waterloo, in the vicinity of which city he taught school for four terms. While there he invested in a tract of eighty acres of land in Black Hawk county, paying for the same ten dollars an acre, that farm thus becoming the nucleus for the considerable land holdings he afterward acquired in the neighborhood of Waterloo. Upon the completion of his fourth term of service as a school teacher, Mr. Nuebel returned to Germany for a short visit, after which he came back to Iowa and settled down on his farm in Black Hawk county, losing little time in the development and improvement of the same. After his marriage in 1879 Mr. Nuebel established his home on his farm and as his affairs prospered added to his land holdings until he became the owner of a fine farm of two hundred and forty acres, which he continued to farm until 1898, when he joined his son, Theodore, in the general mercantile business at Le Mars, where he ever since has made his home and where he is very comfortably situated. For several years after locating at Le Mars, Mr. Nuebel continued in active business and then retired, well prepared to spend the "evening time" of his life in quiet comfort.

It was in 1879, while living in Black Hawk county, that Paul Nuebel was united in marriage to Margaret Weber, a daughter of Nicholas Weber and wife, and to this union fourteen children have been born, of whom eleven are still living, namely: Theodore, a well-known merchant of LeMars; Joseph, who married Lena Wahl and has six children, Paul, Beatrice, Joseph, Eugene, Celeste and Rita; John, who married Katherine Boellerschen and has nine children; Frank, who married Josephine Meis and has six children, Leo, Mary, Leona, Lawrence, Rosella and Vincent; the Rev. William Nuebel, a priest of the Catholic church, now serving as chaplain of the Sacred Heart Academy at Cedar Rapids; Mary, who married Michael Staebell and has ten children, Margaret, William, Christina, Marie, Elizabeth, Joseph, Dorothy, Francis, Rita and Paul; Elizabeth, who married George Gerk and has four children, Paul, Margaret, Joseph and George Willard; Dorothy, who married John Koster and has one child,

Lorena; Paul, who married Elizabeth Koester; Margaret, who married Frank Miller, a hardware merchant, of Fairbank, Iowa, and Sue, who married Albert Hoffer, a contractor and builder of Waterloo, Iowa. The Nuebels are members of St. Joseph's German Catholic church and take an active interest in parish affairs. Mr. Nuebel is a Democrat and ever has given a good citizen's attention to local civic affairs, but has not been a seeker after office.

A. L. JUSTMAN.

It was thirty-five years ago when A. L. Justman, commonly known as Louis Justman, first came to Plymouth county. He had practically no capital when he began his career as a general farmer in this part of the state, but by hard work and good management he has forged ahead and is now retired from active life, spending his declining years in Le Mars in quiet and surrounded by all the comforts of life.

A. L. Justman was born in Jackson county, Iowa, August 15, 1856, son of Charles H. and Susan (Lingle) Justman, the former a native of Germany and the latter of Pennsylvania. The father was fifteen years old when he came to America, locating in Illinois, where he resided until he removed to Jackson county, Iowa. He removed to Jennings, Louisiana, in 1879, owing to failing health. He was a soldier in the Union army during the Civil War, having enlisted in 1863 in an Iowa regiment, from Jackson county, serving three years. His death occurred at Jennings, Louisiana, in 1896. His widow died in 1897. He reached the age of eighty years. His family consisted of twelve children, namely: Joseph, who lives in Arkansas; Rosa, next in order of birth; Lena, who lives in Kansas; A. L., the subject of this sketch; Henry, who lives in Louisiana; Fred, who lives in Dubuque, Iowa; Mary, who lives in Louisiana; Clara, who lives in Dubuque; Charles, who lives in Fair Point, South Dakota; William, who lives in Texas; Frank, of Chicago, and George of Louisiana.

A. L. Justman received his education in the public schools of Jackson county, Iowa. When nineteen years old he went to Maquoketa, Iowa, for a short time, then to Sioux county, and in 1881 to Plymouth county, but remained only a short time, returning to Jackson county, where, on January 16, 1883, he married Angie Wanderwicken, a native of Luxemburg and a daughter of Theodore and Josephine (Erpelding) Wanderwicken, also

natives of Luxemburg, from which county they came to America in 1865, locating in Jackson county, Iowa, where they lived until 1890, when they came to Plymouth county, locating four miles south of Le Mars, where they farmed until retiring and moving to Le Mars, where the father died on November 13, 1914, and where the mother died on January 5, 1916, both having reached the age of about eighty-two. They were parents of nine children. Those living are E. P., of Chicago; Angie, wife of Mr. Justman; John, editor of a newspaper at Grundy Center and also postmaster there; Mary, who lives in Iowa City; Michael, a salesman in Chicago; Jennie, who lives in South Dakota, and Peter, who lives in Maurice, Iowa.

The following children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Justman: Kate, who married John Stenger, of Ardock, North Dakota, and has four children, Edward, Rosella, Bernice and Lucile; Rosa, who married William Jackson, of Kingsley, and had four children, Viola, Marvin, Leona (deceased) and Raymond; William, who is farming his father's home place, married Amelia Beck; John, who died at the age of seventeen; Lillian, who lives at home, and Joseph, who died in infancy. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Justman received their schooling in the schools of Le Mars.

After their marriage Mr. Justman and wife located in Union township, this county, where they rented land for nine years and then bought a farm three miles north of Le Mars, in Elgin township. Mr. Justman worked hard and managed well and added to his original purchase until he now owns a valuable and highly-improved farm there of two hundred and eighty acres, where he carried on general farming on an extensive scale until 1908, when he retired from active life and moved to Le Mars, where he has since resided and where he owns a modern house.

Mr. Justman is a Democrat and has held minor public offices in Elgin township. He belongs to the St. Joseph German Catholic church.

GEORGE A. EWERS.

Life is pleasant to live when one knows how to make the most of it. Some people start on their careers as if they had weights on their souls, or were afraid to make the necessary effort to live up to a high standard. Others, by not making a proper study of the conditions of existence, or by not having the best of trainers—good parents—are side-tracked at the outset and never seem thereafter to be able to get back again on the main track.

George A. Ewers, who is now living practically retired from active life, but who still owns a fine farm and a number of valuable horses, which claim his attention, seems to have been fortunate in getting properly started out in his chosen life work, for he has made a success.

George A. Ewers, who is now a resident of Le Mars, but who for many years was engaged in general farming in Plymouth county, was born in Clinton county, Iowa, August 19, 1862. He is a son of George and Martha (Stewart) Ewers, the former of whom was born at Pendleton, New York, and the latter at Cowlan, Canada. George Ewers devoted his active life to farming. He came to Iowa in an early day, single, and located in Jackson county, later moving to Plymouth county, where, in 1884, he bought a half section of land in Preston township, which he developed into a good farm and which he operated successfully until his death on January 18, 1902. His wife died on December 23, 1901. He was a Democrat, but he never aspired to public office or leadership. He was a great reader and kept well posted. His family consisted of three children, namely: Henry S., who married Martha Grant and is farming near Le Mars; George A., the subject of this sketch, and William S., who is engaged in farming near Morris, Minnesota.

George A. Ewers grew up on the home farm, where he worked when a boy. He attended the high school at Maquoketa, Iowa, and lived at home until he was thirty-two years old. He has devoted his life to agricultural pursuits. After his marriage he purchased a farm in Preston township, this county, where he followed general farming and stock raising until 1906, when he retired and moved to Le Mars where he owns a beautiful home. He still owns a farm of two hundred and eighty acres of excellent land, which is well improved in every way, and he still looks after his farming interests in a general way. He is also a breeder of fine Polled Durham cattle, general purpose horses and mixed hogs. He also owns one hundred and twenty acres of his father's old homestead.

On November 22, 1894, George A. Ewers was married to Nellie J. Rowe, who was born at Platteville, Wisconsin. She is a daughter of James and Selinda (Stephens) Rowe, who spent their earlier lives on a farm in Grant county, Wisconsin, but moved to Iowa in 1889 and established the family home on a farm in Washington township, this county, where they remained many years; then moved to Le Mars for a time, finally moving back to Wisconsin, where they spent eight years, at the end of which time they returned to Le Mars, where they now live retired. To Mr. and Mrs.

Rowe six children were born, only two of whom are now living, Charles, who is farming in Washington township, this county, and Mrs. Ewers.

To Mr. and Mrs. Ewers one child has been born, a son, James Lloyd, whose birth occurred on August 19, 1901. Mr. Ewers is a Republican, but he has never been an office seeker or active in public affairs. He is a member of the Presbyterian church.

ERNA H. PLATH.

Erna H. Plath, county superintendent of schools for Plymouth county and for years one of the most active factors in the cause of education hereabout, is a native daughter of Iowa and has lived in this state all her life. She was born at Maurice, in Sioux county, April 23, 1889, daughter of Ernest and Minnie (Esler) Plath, both natives of Germany, the former of whom came to this country when he was twenty-one years of age and the latter when she was sixteen. Though in the old country they had lived within four miles of each other, they never met until they came to Iowa, their meeting occurring in the little town of Earlville. Mr. Plath for more than twenty years has been a traveling salesman for a Chicago firm, making his home at Le Mars. To him and his wife three children have been born, Miss Plath having a brother, Harry, and a sister, Marie.

Reared at Le Mars, Erna H. Plath received her elementary schooling in the public schools of that city and was graduated from the high school there in 1908. She then taught school for a couple of years, one year in the city grade schools and one year in the country, and then entered the Iowa State Teachers College at Cedar Falls, taking the primary course, from which she was graduated in 1912, after which, for three years, she was engaged as a teacher in the primary school (second grade) at Sioux City. On April 6, 1915, Miss Plath was elected county superintendent of schools for Plymouth county, taking office on September 1 of that year, and has since then been serving in that important capacity. During her incumbency Miss Plath has inaugurated several advanced movements in the educational system of the county, one of the most important of which is the "study center" work, which promises to prove of large value to the schools. Miss Plath is a member of the German Methodist church and of the local chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star and in both church and lodge work takes a warm interest.



MISS ERNA H. PLATH

FIDEL HEISSEL.

It is a pleasure to the biographer to revert to the life of an individual who surmounted the discouraging obstacles of an early environment that was none too auspicious, and, while achieving a large measure of material success in later life, found time to be a good citizen, a helpful neighbor and a loyal friend, making his locality better by his residence therein. Such a man was the late Fidel Heissel, for many years a progressive farmer of Fredonia township, this county.

Fidel Heissel was born in Germany on March 21, 1853, a son of Mathias and Rosella Heissel, both natives of Germany, where they spent their lives. Mathias Heissel was a weaver by trade and his family consisted of five children, Fidel and John being the only two to come to America.

Fidel Heissel grew up in his native land and there attended school. He came to the New World when a young man and located at Wausau, Wisconsin, where he worked in the lumber woods and on the Mississippi river for six years; then located in Buena Vista county, Iowa, buying one hundred and sixty acres, for which he paid six dollars an acre. He developed the land and farmed it for eighteen years. He came to Plymouth county in 1893 and bought one hundred and sixty acres near Hinton, which he farmed for some time, finally moving to Fredonia township, where he bought two hundred and forty acres; later sold forty acres and bought one hundred and sixty acres more in that township, also one hundred and sixty in Stanton township and one hundred and sixty west of Hinton, making a total of six hundred and eighty acres of valuable and well-improved land in Plymouth county. Mr. Heissel continued general farming and stock raising on an extensive scale in Fredonia township until 1905, when he moved to Le Mars, bought a beautiful home, retired from active life and lived there until his death on March 4, 1912. He deserved a great deal of credit for what he accomplished, starting out without capital or aid from anyone, and he became one of the substantial men of his county through his own efforts.

On October 11, 1875, Fidel Heissel was married to Barbara Sitzmann, a daughter of Adam and Catherine (Buichner) Sitzmann, and to that union ten children were born, namely: Rose, who married Frank Bortchiller and has nine children, Matilda, John, Joe, Michael, Charles, Mary, Marcella, Claudius and Edward; Mary, who married John P. Wirth and has nine children, Fedalius, Elizabeth, Oswald, Barbara, Margaret, Risella, William, and Lewis and Lucella, twins; Elizabeth, who married Gerhart Gretchen and has

six children, William, Cecilia, Helen, Gerhart, Raymond and Leo; Joe, who married Mary Mooney and has six children, Fedalius, Leona, Irene, Agnes, Dale and Marie; Edward, who married Margaret Hentges and had one son, Clarence Edward, who died on June 15, 1915; Catherine, who died in infancy; Matilda, who married Henry Mairose and has one child, Irma; Louise, who married Henry Kemp; Catherine, who married Lawrence Lewis and has four children, Vernon, Louise, Edward and Joseph, and William, who married Elizabeth Mairose and has two children, Luella and Oliva.

Mr. Heissel voted independently and held several minor offices in Fredonia township. He belonged to the Catholic church and to the St. Joseph Society at Le Mars. He was a member of the Mutual Protective Association and was secretary of the same for many years.

JACOB G. KOENIG.

Jacob G. Koenig, one of the best-known citizens of Le Mars, a pioneer of Plymouth county, who after farming for some years in this county in the early days, resumed his vocation as a barber in Le Mars and continued active in that calling until his retirement from business some years ago, since which time he has been living retired in that city, is a native of Germany, but has been a resident of this country since he was eighteen years of age. He was born in Hesse-Cassel on March 10, 1840, son of Christian and Elizabeth (Molbus) Koenig, both natives of Germany, the former born in Kur-hesse and the latter in Hesse-Darmstadt. Christian Koenig was a shoemaker and a musician of much skill, who came to the United States in 1867 and for some time followed his trade in Baltimore, later returning to Germany for his son, William, who had been serving in his country's army in the Franco-Prussian War. He returned to Baltimore, but after a sometime residence there again returned to his native land, where he remained until after the death of his wife, when he again returned to Baltimore, where he spent the rest of his life. To him and his wife eight children were born, of whom the subject of this sketch was the fourth in order of birth and of whom three are now living, those besides Jacob G. Koenig being Gertrude, who is now living at Beardstown, Illinois, and Frederick, who is living in Baltimore.

Reared in his native land, Jacob G. Koenig received his schooling there and for a time worked as a waiter in a hotel. When eighteen years of age,

in 1858, he came to the United States and located in the city of Baltimore, where for a time he worked as a waiter in a hotel, presently taking up the trade of barber and following that until he came to Iowa and settled in Plymouth county, one of the pioneers of the southern part of the county. In the meantime, in the fall of 1865, Mr. Koenig had married in Baltimore and in 1871 he came with his family to Iowa and located in the southern part of Plymouth county, renting a farm from his father-in-law, Jacob Merryman, who settled here at the same time, and there he farmed for ten years, or until 1881, in which year he retired from the farm and moved to Le Mars, where he resumed his former trade as a barber, working for Charles Blind until, shortly afterward, in 1882, he bought the shop and conducted the same very successfully until he sold out in 1905 and retired from business. Mr. Koenig is a Republican and has ever given a good citizen's attention to local civic affairs. In his fraternal relations, he is a Mason and a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, a member of that order since 1861, in which year, at Baltimore, he received the final degree of the order from Thomas Wildey, the founder of the order in this country. He also became a member of the Daughters of Rebekah in Baltimore, receiving the degrees in that auxiliary to the Odd Fellows from Schuyler Colfax, founder of the Rebekah degree. Mr. Koenig is a charter member of Le Mars Lodge No. 255, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and a past noble grand of the same.

It was on September 25, 1865, that Jacob G. Koenig was united in marriage to Mary Elizabeth Merryman, who was born in Washington, D. C., in 1848, daughter and only child of Jacob and Caroline Merryman, both natives of Germany, the former born in Wurtemberg and the latter in Hesse-Cassel, who came to the United States in the days of their youth, were married in Philadelphia, later moved to Washington and after a sometime residence in the national capital, moved to Baltimore, where Jacob Merryman followed his trade as a bootmaker, making boots for the army during the Civil War, and continued his trade there until 1871, when he came to this state with his family, settling in Plymouth county, where he and his wife spent the remainder of their lives, making their home with Mr. and Mrs. Koenig. Mrs. Merryman died in August, 1895, and Mr. Merryman died in June, 1904. To Mr. and Mrs. Koenig eight children were born, namely: Caroline, who married Philip Schneider and died on October 19, 1913, leaving the following children: Katherine, Rudolph, Lucile, Robert, Ralph and Burdette, the first-named of whom, Katherine, married Irving Taylor and

has one child, Vernon, great-grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Koenig; Jacob, who died in infancy; Elizabeth, who married William H. Zimmerman and has one child, Cleone; Ida Cordelia, who married Henry C. Mohler and has five children, Beatrice, Helen, Martha, Lillian and Henry Clay; Frances Estella, who married the Rev. Gerheart Hulsebus and has three children, Lowell, Lois and Alice; Herbert, who married Margaret Lowrie and has one child, Daphne; Jacob G., who married Marie Prust, who died in 1914, and Walter, who married Jessie Campbell and has three children, Margaret, Zola and Abra. The Koenigs are members of the United Evangelical church, of which Mr. Koenig was a trustee from 1882 to 1905, and of the Sunday school of which he was superintendent for twenty years. Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Koenig died on August 7, 1916.

A. J. STANG.

One of the best-known citizens of Plymouth county is A. J. Stang, formerly county treasurer and for many years a progressive merchant, who is now living in retirement in Le Mars. He is a public-spirited man, who has long had the interests of his county at heart and has not withheld his support from any laudable movement looking toward the betterment of the same.

A. J. Stang was born in Benton county, Iowa, February 27, 1865, and there he grew up and was educated, later attending school in Plymouth county. He lived at home until he was twenty-one years old, then rented his father's farm for two years, after which he engaged in the grain and implement business at Remsen seven and one-half years; then traded for land, but had charge of another implement stock for eighteen months. In the fall of 1897 he was elected treasurer of Plymouth county, serving three terms with credit to himself and satisfaction to all concerned. Later he was in the employ of the International Harvester Company for three years, and since then he has lived retired in Le Mars. He owns three hundred and twenty acres in Lyon county and one hundred and sixty acres in Plymouth county, all valuable land. He has been very successful in a business way.

A. J. Stang is a son of Clement and Margaret (Englehart) Stang, both natives of Germany, he of Baden and she of Bavaria. They came to America when young. He located in Baltimore, Maryland, where he worked at the blacksmith's trade. He was also a mechanic. He helped

build the Baltimore & Ohio railroad from Baltimore to Wheeling, West Virginia, and later moved to the latter city. In 1856 he came down the Ohio river in a boat and up the Mississippi, bound for St. Paul, Minnesota, but while en route cholera broke out on the boat and he arranged with the captain to land him at Muscatine, Iowa. In the spring of 1856 he drove overland to Benton county, Iowa, and became the first blacksmith in that part of the country, the settlers showing their appreciation of his coming by building him a comfortable home and a small shop. He lacked proper material in that pioneer place, but he was resourceful and made a success of his work nevertheless. Later he bought one hundred and twenty acres in that county and started farming. On April 7, 1882, he located one mile south of Remsen, in this county, where he owned two hundred and forty acres. In 1888 he sold his farm and moved to Remsen, where he lived until his death on April 15, 1914. His wife died in 1891. They were parents of six children, namely: Louise, who lives at Remsen; William A., who lives in Carrollton county, Iowa; Mrs. P. H. Peters, who lives at Long Beach, California; Mrs. E. Ebrecht, who lives in Sioux City, Iowa; Mrs. M. Lemberty, who lives in Glendale, California, and A. J., the subject of this sketch, who owns the homestead near Remsen.

On May 23, 1888, A. J. Stang was married to Lydia Kohler, a daughter of Nick and Mary (Lang) Kohler, and to this union five children have been born, namely: Levi C., who is an electric engineer and lives in Le Mars; Walter A., who lives in Sioux City; Hilton A., who is attending the State University; Ray, who is a high-school student at Le Mars, and Floyd, who is attending the grade school at Le Mars. Mr. Stang is a Republican. Fraternally, he belongs to the Knights of Pythias, of which he is past chancellor.

GEORGE REMBE.

It is now a generally-accepted belief that life is what we make it; however, there are many who believe that environment, or luck, which is another name for fate, shapes our destiny and often prevents us from doing noble things, even if we have the desire to do them. Those familiar with the life record of George Rembe, formerly one of the progressive farmers of Plymouth county, who is now living in retirement in Le Mars, passing his declining years in serenity, are unanimous in their opinion that he has lived to good purpose and has accomplished much that is worth while.

George Rembe was born in the neighborhood of Mannheim, in the province of Bavaria, Germany, March 6, 1847, a son of George and Maria (Swallow) Rembe, both natives of the same locality, where they grew up, were married and established their home on a farm on which they spent the rest of their lives. They were members of the Lutheran church. Their children were named as follow: Valentine, now deceased, who was a farmer in Liberty township, Plymouth county, but spent his last days in Le Mars; Phillip, also now deceased, who lived for some time in Plymouth county, also in Chicago, Illinois; George, the subject of this sketch; Fred, who is engaged in farming in O'Brien county, Iowa; Barbara, who lives in Bavaria, Germany; Sophia, deceased, and Elizabeth, who lives in Bavaria.

George Rembe grew up on the home farm in his native land, where he worked when a boy and where he attended the common schools, remaining at home until his father's death, which occurred when he was seventeen years old. He then started farming for himself, continuing in his own vicinity until he reached the age of twenty-one, when he and his wife came to America, he having married, at the age of twenty, Dorothy Yutze, a native of Ebersheim, Bavaria. In the fall of 1869 they set sail for the New World, the voyage requiring one month. Upon landing in New York they came West and spent two years at Warren, Illinois, after which, in 1872, they came to Iowa and entered a homestead in Preston township, this county, which Mr. Rembe developed into a good farm through hard work. He finally established a good home there and continued to reside on that farm until 1902, when he retired and moved to Le Mars, where he has since resided. But he retains his farm of three hundred and twenty acres, which is under a high state of cultivation and improvement. While engaged in active farming Mr. Rembe made a specialty of raising Durham and Short-horn cattle, English and Clydesdale draft horses, Duroc-Jersey hogs, Lincolnshire sheep and other live stock.

To Mr. and Mrs. Rembe eight children have been born, namely: Elizabeth, who is the wife of William E. Croft, of Seattle, Washington; George A., who is operating his father's farm in Preston township; Annie, who is at home; Phillip, who is also farming on the home place; Mamie, who is unmarried and lives in Seattle, Washington; William, who is assistant cashier in the German-American Savings Bank at Le Mars; Dollie, who is the wife of A. D. Pierson, of Le Mars, and Fred, who is a butter-maker and lives at Topeka, Indiana.

Mr. Rembe is a Republican and has been active in public affairs. He

served as school director for a period of nineteen years and as treasurer of his district for nine years. He was town assessor for several terms and was elected supervisor in 1893, serving three years, and was chairman of the board. In 1900 he served as census enumerator for Grant and Preston townships. Mr. Rembe is a Scottish Rite Mason and a Knight Templar, a member of the blue lodge, the chapter and the commandery at Le Mars, and of the consistory and the temple of the Ancient Arabic Order of Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, at Sioux City. He belongs to the Presbyterian church.

JACOB SPIES.

Another of the enterprising Germans who left his native land with all its sacred associations and memories and traditions for a home in the New World, where better opportunities for the man of humble origin exist, is Jacob Spies, who, after a successful career as a tailor and farmer and stock raiser, is living in honorable retirement in his pleasant home in Le Mars.

Mr. Spies was born in Westphalia, Germany, October 21, 1835, and is therefore now eighty-one years of age, but is still active and in possession of his faculties, as a result of a carefully spent life. He is a son of George and Catherine Spies, both natives of Germany, where they grew up, attended school, were married and established the family home; in fact, lived and died there, spending their active lives on a farm. They had only two children, Jacob and Catherine.

Jacob Spies spent his boyhood in Germany, where he worked on the farm with his father, and he attended the common schools there. When only fifteen years of age he came to the United States, locating in Baltimore, Maryland. Before leaving his native land he served an apprenticeship at the tailor's trade, and this trade he followed in the city of Baltimore for a period of twenty years, becoming a highly skilled workman. But finally, tiring of the confinement, he turned his attention to a more independent life in the West and came to Iowa, purchasing one hundred acres in Plymouth township, this county, for which he paid nine dollars an acre. It was all raw land, but he went to work with determination, broke up the prairie sod, erected buildings, set out a grove and soon had a very good farm, to which he added more land until he now owns a valuable and highly-improved farm of two hundred and twelve acres. Mr. Spies carried on general farming and stock raising with pronounced success until 1900, when he retired from

active life and moved to Le Mars, where he owns a well-appointed residence. He landed on American soil without one cent and when he came to Plymouth county he had very little capital. He is therefore deserving of much credit for what he has accomplished, in the face of obstacles.

In 1857 Mr. Spies was married to Caroline Smith, a daughter of Christian and Catherine Smith, and to that union ten children were born, only three of whom are now living, namely: Albert L., who married Matilda Koenig and has eight children; Reuben J., who married Dora Sternburg and has seven children, and George F., who married Kate Blecker and has four children. Following the death of the mother of these children, Jacob Spies married Mrs. Augusta Huesbsch, widow of Andrew Huebsch and daughter of Gottlieb Wolkow and wife, and who by her first marriage was the mother of seven children, six of whom are still living, Annie, Rosa, Lena, Ella, William and George.

Mr. Spies is a Republican and has served on the school board and as assessor of Plymouth township. He belongs to the United Evangelical church and has held all the offices in the same, having long been active in church work.

JOHN F. KAISER.

John F. Kaiser, postmaster at Oyens, this county, one of the leading merchants and men of affairs of that village and one of the best-known men in Plymouth county, is a native son of Iowa, born on a farm in Scott county on December 4, 1870, son of Nicholas and Mary (Neisius) Kaiser, both of whom were born in Wisconsin, the former near Kenosha and the latter at Brighton.

Nicholas Kaiser was reared on a farm in Wisconsin and followed farming during all the active period of his life. In 1874 he came to this county and settled on a farm in Marion township, the place now owned by J. P. Tentinger, and lived there for several years, at the end of which time he moved to the neighboring village of Remsen, where for twelve years he was engaged in the sale of agricultural implements. Upon retiring from business he moved to Muenster, Texas, where he died on September 11, 1916, and was there buried and where his widow is now living. Mr. Kaiser was a Democrat and during his residence in this county served for fourteen years as the treasurer of his local school board. He and his wife were



JOHN F. KAISER



MRS. CATHERINE KAISER

members of St. Mary's Catholic church at Remsen and their children were reared in that faith. There were nine of these children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the first-born, the others being as follow: Louise, who married J. P. Wies, of Remsen; Mary, who married J. W. Muerer, of Muenster, Texas; Anna, who married Henry Walterschied, of San Antonio, Texas, and died on August 9, 1916; Kate, deceased; Nicholas, deceased; Lena, who married Elmer Reubentisch and now lives at San Antonio, Texas; Frank, who is engaged in the real-estate and loan business at Remsen, and Susie, who married Louis Benard and lives at Muenster, Texas.

John F. Kaiser was about four years old when his parents came to Plymouth county and his boyhood was spent on the home farm in Marion township, his schooling being obtained in the neighboring district school. When he was fourteen years old he started out "on his own" as a cattle herder and for nearly eight years thereafter was thus engaged in Colorado and western Texas, the greater part of which time was spent on the famous "Diamond C" cattle ranch. After having had enough of the life of the range, Mr. Kaiser returned to Plymouth county and located at Remsen, where for seven or eight years he was engaged working at the carpenter's trade, and during which time, in the spring of 1895, he was married. In 1900 he moved to the neighboring village of Oyens and for three years thereafter was engaged there in the saloon business, in partnership with J. P. Wies, after which he put up a building of his own and was further engaged in the retail liquor business there for about eight years, at the end of which time he sold his place and returned to Remsen, where he was engaged in the blacksmith business until 1912, in which year he returned to Oyens and bought the hotel there, which he conducted until he was appointed postmaster of the village in 1914, since which time he has devoted his time to the official duties of that office, conducting at the same time a confectionery and cigar store and ice-cream parlor, in which store the postoffice fixtures are located. Mr. Kaiser is a Republican and gives his thoughtful attention to local civic affairs, being regarded as one of the political leaders in that part of the county.

It was on May 8, 1895, that John F. Kaiser was united in marriage to Catherine Peters, who was born in Jackson county, this state, daughter of William Peters, now a resident of Oyens, and to this union two children have been born, Mae B. and Raymond W., who received their elementary schooling in the home schools and at St. Catharine's Catholic school at

Oyens and supplemented the same by attendance on the schools at Dubuque. Mae B. Kaiser is now at Sioux City taking a course of instruction with a view to becoming a trained nurse, and Raymond W. Kaiser is a well-known young farmer of the Oyens neighborhood. The Kaisers are members of St. Catharine's Catholic church at Oyens and take a proper interest in parish affairs.

CHARLES SCHNEIDER.

Charles Schneider, one of the well-known and successful business men of Le Mars and now engaged in the real-estate and automobile business there, was born in this county on February 23, 1863, the son of Philip and Margaret (Lumsbauch) Schneider, the former of whom died on December 9, 1905, at the age of seventy-six years.

John Schneider, the brother of Philip Schneider, was born in 1831 and was the son of Dietrich and Elizabeth (Reuter) Schneider. The maternal grandfather, John Reuter, was a farmer in Germany, and there lived his life. He and his family were prominent members of the Evangelical church and were held in the highest regard by all who knew them. The paternal grandfather, Philip Schneider, was a farmer in Germany and never came to America. He and his family were prominent in the work of the Evangelical Lutheran church and he took an active part in the war of 1813 with Prussia. The father of John and Philip Schneider was born in the year 1800 and died on May 2, 1840. After the death of the husband and father, in Germany, the mother, Elizabeth Schneider, left her home in Germany on May 8, 1853, and arrived in New York on September 1, 1853. She located at Albany, New York, where she remained for two years, when she came to Ogle county, Illinois, where she remained for one year. It was there that John Schneider left the rest of the family and journeyed to Iowa, where he remained, at Dubuque until March 16, 1856, when he, with three other German boys, started to walk to Plymouth county, where they later arrived.

Elizabeth Schneider, the mother of John and Philip Schneider, having located in Ogle county, Illinois, drove from that county, to Plymouth county, Iowa, with an ox-team, in company with the others of her children, Philip, Mary, Daniel, Jacob and Henry. They arrived at their destination on July 3, 1856, after a journey of five weeks. The journey was a difficult one and the members of the party suffered many of the hardships of the early pioneer.

The wife of Philip Schneider died in June, 1900, at the age of sixty-

six years. She and Mr. Schneider were the parents of seven children, Julia, Jacob, Elizabeth (deceased), Charles, Henry, William and Iona. The Schneiders came to the county before the time of the granting of homesteads and Philip Schneider pre-empted two hundred acres of land. This he developed and improved and in time added to his original tract, until he became the owner of nine hundred acres in the county. He always took an active interest in local affairs, had much to do with the early civic life of the township and of the county and was one of the organizers of the Floyd Valley Evangelical Lutheran church, having much to do with its development and growth. He was a man who was held in the highest regard and esteem by all who knew him. Much of the success of the township was due to his untiring effort to make it one of the most successful governments in the county.

Charles Schneider received his education in the schools of Plymouth county and here grew to manhood on the home farm, where he assisted his father with the work on the farm. On November 19, 1885, he was united in marriage to Nettie Anna Uthe, daughter of A. D. and Mary (Heintz) Uthe. Mr. and Mrs. Uthe were natives of Germany and there received their education in the public schools. They came to America in their youth and located in Chicago, where they were later married. They were the parents of six children, Edward, Albert, Ella, Nettie Anna, William and Samuel. Mr. Uthe and family came to Plymouth county in 1882 and Mr. Uthe engaged in general farming and stock raising for many years, but is now retired and lives at Le Mars.

Charles and Nettie Anna Schneider are the parents of the following children: Susie, who lives in Seattle, Washington; Nellie, of Sac county, Iowa; Carl, who is now (1916) with the army of the United States on the Mexican border, and Elmer and Lester.

As a young man Charles Schneider engaged in farming and was thus engaged until twelve years ago. He began farming on a small scale in Plymouth township and is now the owner of four hundred and eighty acres of excellent land, all of which is under high cultivation and well improved. While engaged in farming, he was a firm believer in the most thorough cultivation and in the keeping of the best of stock and was recognized as one of the progressive and successful farmers and substantial citizens of the community. In addition to the farm he owns in this county Mr. Schneider has some four hundred acres of land in South Dakota. On his retirement from the active duties of the farm, Mr. Schneider became engaged in the

selling of automobiles and was also for seven years engaged in the real-estate business at Merrill. Three years ago he moved to Le Mars, where he is engaged in handling the Patterson, the Jackson and the Reo automobiles and is the distributor for the Jackson in this community. He has made the automobile business a study, and today is recognized as one of the most efficient men in that line in the county.

Charles Schneider is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, of the Modern Woodmen of America and of the Knights of Pythias, in the affairs of all of which organizations he takes much interest. Mr. and Mrs. Schneider are prominent in the social and the religious life of the community and are held in the highest regard by all who know them. They are a hospitable people and take much pleasure in the entertainment of their friends.

JACOB NUSSBAUM.

Among the self-made men of Plymouth county who deserve their present comfortable situation in life is Jacob Nussbaum, a retired farmer, living in Le Mars. He hails from Germany, which fact may not have much significance to some who peruse this book, but maybe if he had not had in his veins the blood of the enterprising Teutons he would not have succeeded in overcoming the obstacles that have beset his pathway. True it is, that those of his countrymen who have settled in Plymouth county have all been courageous and energetic and in every way good citizens.

Jacob Nussbaum was born in the province of Hesse-Cassel, Germany, August 10, 1856. He is a son of Melchior and Julia (Schafer) Nussbaum, both natives of the above-named province. There they grew up, were married and established their home on a farm, where he spent the rest of his life, dying many years ago—in 1887, at the age of sixty years. His widow still survives, being now eighty-four years old. She belongs to the Evangelical or Reformed church, to which her husband also belonged. To these parents nine children were born, namely: Jacob, the subject of this sketch; Elizabeth, who lives in Germany; Henry, now deceased, who came to America in 1879 and located in Crawford county, Iowa; Martha, who is living in Germany; George, who is engaged in farming four miles north of Le Mars; Martin, who is farming near Brookings, South Dakota; Catherine, who lives in Germany; Conrad, who is farming near Danvers, Minnesota, and Ditmar, who is farming in South Dakota.

Jacob Nussbaum spent his boyhood in Germany, where he attended the common schools. He assisted his father with the work on the home farm until he was twenty-four years old, then came to America, landing in New York on May 1, 1881. He came on West, locating in Crawford county, Iowa, whither a brother and a number of friends had preceded him. He rented land in that county for eleven years, carrying on general farming, then bought one hundred and sixty acres in Elgin township, Plymouth county. It was wild prairie land, which he improved and on which he built a home, and there continued general farming until the spring of 1907, when he retired from active life, moving to Le Mars where he bought a comfortable home, and where he has since resided. He sold the above-mentioned farm in 1910 and bought two hundred and forty acres in Preston township. He also owns one hundred and sixty acres in Elgin township. He has owned a number of different farms in Plymouth county at different times. He started in life without capital, but by perseverance along right channels he has succeeded. He built his present modern and attractive home on Main street in 1913. It is on a half acre of ground just north of the Country Club, and is tastily kept. While farming, Mr. Nussbaum raised Shorthorn cattle, Clydesdale horses and Poland China hogs.

On May 7, 1885, Jacob Nussbaum was married to Augusta Stiegert, who was born on February 1, 1860, in the province of Pommern, Germany. She is a daughter of August and Johannah (Kadaw) Stiegert, both natives of Pommern, from which country they came to America in 1885 and spent their last years at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Nussbaum, the mother dying on March 10, 1893, and the father, November 4, 1894. They were members of the Lutheran church. Their children were named as follow: Wilhelmina, who lives in Germany; Caroline, who lives in Hinton, this county; Fred, who lives in Texas; Augusta, who married Mr. Nussbaum; Anna Steina, who lives in Marcus, Iowa, and Elizabeth, who married August Kilker and lives in Le Mars.

To Mr. and Mrs. Nussbaum one son has been born, Walter, whose birth occurred on February 21, 1898. He was educated in the public schools of Le Mars and is a member of the graduating class of the local high school of 1917.

Mr. Nussbaum is an independent Democrat and was trustee of his township for four terms and school director for three years. He attends the Presbyterian church.

DANIEL O'BRIEN.

After an active and successful career as an agriculturist Daniel O'Brien is now living in retirement in Le Mars. He is known as a man who has always guarded well his conduct in all the relations which he has sustained to the world, and, while advancing his individual interests, has not neglected his general duties as a neighbor and citizen, and "while living in a house by the side of the road has been a friend to man."

Daniel O'Brien was born in Luzerne county, Pennsylvania, June 20, 1845. He is a son of Michael and Catherine (Murphy) O'Brien, both natives of County Cork, Ireland, where they grew up and married, subsequently emigrating to South America and later coming to the United States, locating in Luzerne county, Pennsylvania, where they spent the rest of their lives, the father dying in 1847, at the age of forty years; the mother following him to the grave about two years afterwards. They were parents of ten children, three of whom are living at this writing, namely: James, a retired business man, who is still living in Luzerne county, Pennsylvania; Joseph, a retired farmer, who lives in Clay county, Iowa, and Daniel, the subject of this sketch.

Daniel O'Brien attended the common schools and the State University of Wisconsin. His brother, John, brought him to Dane county, Wisconsin, from Pennsylvania, when he was eight years old, and he grew to manhood in the Badger state. Being ambitious to obtain an education he worked his way through the university and made a very creditable record there. After leaving school he engaged in farming in Dane county until twenty-six years of age, when he came to Crawford county, Iowa, and farmed there two years, after which, in 1871, he located in Plymouth county, buying four hundred acres in Stanton township, putting in his first crop on this land in 1873, and two years later built a comfortable home on his land, to which he removed and farmed there alone until in January, 1884, when he married Hannah Ruth, who was born in Long Grove, Lake county, Illinois. She is a daughter of Adem and Salome (Fehlman) Ruth, the father a native of Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, and the mother, of Alsace-Lorraine, formerly a province of France, now a part of the German Empire. Mr. and Mrs. Ruth were pioneers in Lake county, Illinois, where they bought a farm on which they spent the rest of their lives, Mr. Ruth dying at the age of sixty-six and his wife at the advanced age of eighty-two. They were parents of seven children, all still living but one, namely: Marie, who lives in Jeffer-

son county, Iowa; Almira, who lives in Chicago; George, who lives in Jefferson, Iowa; Henry, who makes his home in Kansas; Sabina, who lives in Chicago, and Hannah, the wife of Mr. O'Brien.

Two children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. O'Brien, Earl Daniel, unmarried, who operates his father's farm in Stanton township, and Erma Ruth, who is at home. She was graduated from the Le Mars high school and from the high school at Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and has taught school for several years.

Mr. O'Brien carried on general farming and stock raising, specializing, first, in Red Polled cattle, later in Shorthorn cattle, draft horses and Poland China hogs, continuing with marked success on his productive and well-improved farm in Stanton township until August, 1910, when he retired from active life, turning the management of the place over to his son, and moving to Le Mars where he owns a modern house, which he built on Court street.

Mr. O'Brien is a Democrat, has been active in public affairs for many years and held all the township offices while living on the farm. He and his wife are members of the Catholic church at Le Mars.

FRED KUSCH.

For a number of years Fred Kusch, now cashier of the German Savings Bank of Craig, Plymouth county, was a successful teacher. He made a success of teaching and banking because he was willing at the outset of his career to put forth the necessary effort to win in the battle of life. Idleness has never had much attraction for him.

Fred Kusch was born in Detroit, Michigan, October 21, 1875, and is the only one of the six children born to his parents living in Iowa. He is a son of Fred and Augusta (Martin) Kusch, both natives of Germany, where they grew up and were married, finally coming to America and locating in Detroit, Michigan, where the father became foreman of a paving contract company which work he continued until his death. Fred Kusch was small when his mother died. He received his early education in Detroit and later attended the Woodville Normal School at Woodville, Ohio, from which he was graduated in June, 1891. Soon thereafter he came to Iowa, locating in Grant township, Plymouth county, where he began teaching in the German Lutheran school, continuing in educational work, with

satisfaction to both patrons and pupils, until January 1, 1911, when he resigned to accept a position as cashier of the German Savings Bank at Craig, which bank had just been organized. This position he has since held, being the only cashier the bank has had. Mr. Kusch has discharged his duties in a manner highly acceptable to the stockholders and to the patrons of the bank, which he has helped make a thriving and popular institution.

In 1900 Fred Kusch was married to Lisette Vollmar, a daughter of the Rev. J. Volimar, a well-known minister, a biographical sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this volume. Two children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Kusch, namely, Esther, now (1916) fifteen years of age, and Ruth, aged twelve.

Mr. Kusch is a Democrat. He has served as clerk of Craig for four years and also as a member of the council. He was also township clerk for four years, treasurer of Craig independent school district and of the Grant township schools. He is a member of the German Lutheran church of Craig and has been active in the work of the same for many years. He was formerly organist of the Grant Township Lutheran church, and has been organist for the same denomination since coming to Craig.

JOHN C. PETERSON.

John C. Peterson, publisher of the *Globe-Post* at Le Mars and first lieutenant of Company K, Fifty-sixth Regiment, Iowa National Guard, doing service at the time this is written (in the fall of 1916), under command of the United States National Guard on border duty at Brownsville, Texas, is a native son of Plymouth county and has resided here all his life, with the exception of two years spent at Iowa City and the time spent in pursuing his college studies. He was born at the village of Remsen, March 30, 1886, son of Peter H. and Anna B. Peterson, natives of Denmark and early residents of this county, both of whom are still living.

Completing his elementary studies in the schools of Remsen, John C. Peterson was graduated from the high school in that village in 1904 and later pursued his studies at the Iowa State University, taking there the liberal arts and law courses during the years 1908-10, after which he entered the University of Michigan, from which he was graduated, with the degree of Bachelor of Arts, in 1913. In the meantime he had been devoting his attention to newspaper work and upon completing his college work bought



JOHN C. PETERSON

the *Globe-Post* at Le Mars, of which he since has been the publisher. Mr. Peterson is a Democrat and the columns of his paper reflect the policies of that party.

In 1908, during his residence in Iowa City, John C. Peterson enlisted as a private in Company A, the local company of the Iowa National Guard, and in 1910 was promoted to the rank of sergeant. On December 9, 1913, he enlisted in Company K, Fifty-sixth Regiment, Iowa National Guard, and on February 14, 1914, was elected second lieutenant of the same. On February 23, 1916, he was elected first lieutenant and was thus serving when the regiment was ordered to Texas in the summer of 1916, for border duty, and on June 28, 1916, at Brownsville, Texas, he was made a first lieutenant of the United States National Guard, during the continuance of the border service, and is now serving in that capacity on the border.

On January 9, 1914, John C. Peterson was united in marriage to Ella Glasgow, who was born at Olive Branch, Illinois, February 3, 1889, daughter of Joseph Glasgow and wife, who were the parents of five children, those besides Mrs. Peterson being Charles, Lloyd, of Olds, Canada; A. W., of Dinon, Nebraska, and Royce, of Le Mars. To Mr. and Mrs. Peterson one child has been born, a son, John C., Jr.

CHARLES L. PINNEY.

The true Western spirit of progress and enterprise is strikingly exemplified in the life of such men as Charles L. Pinney, one of Plymouth county's most progressive citizens, whose energetic nature and laudable ambition have enabled him to conquer many adverse circumstances and advance steadily. He has met and overcome obstacles that would have discouraged many men of less determination and won for himself not only a comfortable competency, together with one of the choice farms of his county, but also a place among the highly esteemed men of this section of the great Iowa commonwealth.

Charles L. Pinney, who, after an active life as a general farmer, is now living in retirement in Le Mars, was born on March 17, 1851, at Deposit, New York. He is a son of Grover and Lydia (Luscomb) Pinney. The father was also a native of Deposit and a son of John Pinney, of Burlington, Vermont, who removed to Deposit, New York, when a young man, making the trip down the Delaware river to Port Jarvis, on the ice. He secured one hundred and five acres of wild land in Broome county, which

he cleared and improved. He married Amelia Hutts and they spent the rest of their lives on the farm there. He served as a soldier in the War of 1812. John Pinney also owned and operated a pioneer mill in his vicinity for many years. When he built his home he was compelled to haul much of the material a distance of forty miles. The place he settled has changed hands only three times in one hundred and eleven years, and is still in possession of the family, the present owner being Fred G. Pinney. Twelve children were born to John Pinney and wife, all of whom grew to maturity.

Grover Pinney, father of the subject of this sketch, grew up on the homestead in New York state, where, like all pioneer boys, he worked hard during the crop seasons, attending the pioneer schools during the winter months. He spent his life on the old home place, which he kept well improved and on which he engaged in general farming. Politically, he was a Democrat, but was never active in public affairs and never aspired to office. He belonged to the Methodist Episcopal church, which was located on the Pinney farm. He and his wife died on the homestead many years ago. They were the parents of four children, namely: Charles L., the subject of this sketch; Grover, Jr., who met death by accident on a railroad in the winter of 1881; E. H., who lives on the old homestead in New York, and Carrie G., unmarried, who is an artist and lives in Susquehanna, New York.

Charles L. Pinney grew to manhood on the home farm near Deposit, New York, and assisted his father with the general work of the same during the summer months. He received his education in the public schools of Deposit and in the Laurel Bank Seminary at Deposit. He remained at home until twenty-two years old and in 1873 came West to make his fortune, locating first at Waverly, Iowa, where he taught school one year, going thence to Le Mars, where he worked one year at the carpenter's trade. In the spring of 1876 he married Mrs. Emma Wood, widow of S. A. Wood, of Le Mars, who was killed in the Black Hills, and a daughter of John and Ruth (Snow) Batson, natives of the state of Maine. Mr. Batson died in Waterloo, Iowa, and his wife died in Flint, Michigan.

Three children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Pinney, namely: Mabel, who married H. S. Gengler, a farmer of near Yankton, South Dakota, and has two children, Herbert and Mildred; Eva, who married R. L. Ferguson, a traveling salesman of Mason City, Iowa, and has two children, Ruth Snow and Robert Leroy, and Robert Leroy, who is farming near Yankton, South Dakota, and who married Lulu Jackson and has three sons, Marion, Ralph and Delno.

After his marriage Charles L. Pinney bought a farm three miles north of Le Mars, on which he engaged in general farming and stock raising successfully for a period of thirty years. He then sold out and in 1903 moved to Le Mars and engaged in the livery business two years; also had other business interests there. He has long been widely known as one of the oldest bee men in Iowa, having raised bees for the past forty-two years, making it a close study; and is regarded as one of the best informed men on this subject in the state. He sold fifteen hundred cases of honey in 1915. He has owned as many as three hundred hives at a time, but now has only one hundred and twenty-five. With the exception of looking after his bees and his property he is now living practically retired.

Mr. Pinney is a Democrat, but has never been very active in public affairs; however, he has been city assessor of Le Mars and was county supervisor two terms while living on the farm. He is secretary of the Elks Club of Le Mars, a position he has held eight years. He belongs to the Congregational church. He keeps well posted on current events and is well and favorably known throughout Plymouth county.

GEORGE A. C. CLARKE.

Ruskin says that we are always given strength enough and sense enough for what nature intended us to do, and that, whatever we are doing, we cannot be properly fulfilling our earthly mission if we are not happy ourselves. A part of our service to the world is unquestionably cheerfulness, and unless we are contented in our work and in our daily intercourse among men we are withholding something that is essential to true serviceableness. George A. C. Clarke, now living in Le Mars, after a varied career, principally as a farmer, has always tried to be cheerful in his daily tasks, thus making them easier to perform. George A. C. Clarke was born near Manchester, England, December 8, 1861. He is a son of Archibald W. and Zacynthia (Chorley) Clarke, both natives of England, the father born in Norfolk and the mother in Yorkshire. Archibald W. Clarke, who died in England in 1901, was a son of George Clarke, who married a Miss Bryson, of Norfolk, England. He was interested in cotton mills at Manchester. His children were Charles, Augustus, Bryson, Sarah, Emily, Fannie and Archibald W.

Archibald W. Clarke grew up in England and was educated in the pub-

lic schools there, also receiving a good business training. He was interested in the cotton-milling business at Manchester. He was a colonel in the Lancashire Light Infantry, took an active interest in politics and served as a magistrate for many years. He belonged to Manchester Unity Lodge and to the Episcopal church. He had two children, George A. C., the subject of this sketch, and Mildred, who is the wife of E. E. Lawson, of Leeds, England.

George A. C. Clarke grew to manhood in England and was educated in the public schools and in Harrow College, which he attended three years. He came to the United States in 1882 and located in Plymouth county, Iowa, farming on the Captain Morton place for ten years; then purchased his present home place of ten acres, known as "Greenwood", in Le Mars. He built his present beautiful and well-appointed home in the year 1891, and has made all the improvements on the place. His grounds are well kept and very attractive. He raises white Wyandotte chickens in large numbers and is the oldest breeder of that variety of poultry in Iowa. He finds a ready market for his chickens, which are of superior quality. He also keeps bees and sells considerable honey.

In 1892 Mr. Clarke was married to Stella Perkins, a daughter of John and Margaret Perkins, the father a native of the state of New York and the mother of Canada. Mr. Perkins has been a contractor since 1873 until recently, when he retired. His wife died in 1914. The following children were born to them: Mrs. Ida E. Wier, who is now deceased; Stella, wife of Mr. Clarke; Milton, who lives at Green Bay, Wisconsin; Norman, who lives in Glyndon, Minnesota; Lottie, is the wife of J. W. Greer, of Minneapolis, and Hattie, the wife of Fred H. Becker, of Sioux City, Iowa.

Four children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Clarke, namely: Gerald B., who is employed in the First State Bank at Glyndon, Minnesota; Cecil A., who has been a bookkeeper for the Omaha Railroad Company at Le Mars and is now with the troops on the Mexican border, being a member of Company K, Second Regiment, Iowa National Guard; Margaret E., who is at home, and Mildred Z., who also is at home. These children were educated in the Le Mars schools.

Mr. Clarke is an independent voter. He served as city councilman, also as supervisor for two terms. He has been a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows for twenty-four years; belongs to the Elks Club at Le Mars, being past exalted ruler of the same, and is a member of the Masonic lodge at Le Mars. He has been local weather recorder since June, 1907. He belongs to the Episcopal church.

HUBERT HOSS.

Although the late Hubert Hoss has been sleeping "the sleep that knows no waking", his memory is still green in the minds of his wide circle of friends and acquaintances in Plymouth county, where he was long well and favorably known; for he was not only an industrious farmer, but was a good citizen in the best sense of the term.

Hubert Hoss was born in Luxemburg on April 1, 1852, son of Nicholas and Susan (Keiser) Hoss, who lived and died in Luxemburg. They were parents of five children, three of whom came to America, namely: John, who lives in South Dakota; Mary, who is the wife of John Rollinger, of Le Mars, and Hubert, the subject of this memorial sketch.

Hubert Hoss spent his boyhood in his native land, where he attended the common schools. When a young man he immigrated to the New World. In 1878 he married Margaret Gasper, also a native of Luxemburg, a daughter of Theodore and Mary (Shields) Gasper, natives of Luxemburg. The father was a weaver by trade and spent his life in his native land, his widow coming to America in 1883, with her three daughters, locating first near Le Mars, Iowa, and later at Le Mars, finally moving to South Dakota, where her death occurred on November 17, 1908. Theodore Gasper was born on February 15, 1823, and died in 1882. He and his wife were the parents of seven children, namely: Catherine, deceased; Margaret, who married Mr. Hoss; Catherine, who lives at Alton, Iowa; Barbara, who lives at Oyens, this county; Elizabeth Kiefer, who lives at White Lake, South Dakota; Bernard, who lives in Streeter, Illinois, and Mary, deceased.

Ten children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Hoss, three of whom are deceased, namely: Nicholas, who died when fourteen years old; Josephine, who married Henry Kemp, a farmer, of Oyens, and has one son; Catherine, who married Theodore J. Hoffman, of Merrill, and has four children, Joseph, Leonard, Margaret and Ambrose; John, single, who is farming at Merrill; Emiel, who is farming in Washington township, this county, married Mabel Hammond and has three children, Esther, Ivan and Hulda; Hubert, who is operating the old home place in Liberty township, married Clara Dermier; Margaret Elizabeth, who is at home, and Catherine, also at home.

Mr. and Mrs. Hoss came to Le Mars in 1881 and spent one year here; then bought one hundred and twenty acres in Liberty township, where Mr. Hoss engaged successfully in general farming and stock raising until his death on August 7, 1895. Mrs. Hoss remained on the farm, which she con-

ducted, with the help of her children, until in March, 1913, when she moved to Le Mars, buying her present home on Sixth street. As Mr. Hoss prospered he added to his farm in Liberty township until it now consists of three hundred and sixty acres, all well improved and productive, one of the most valuable farms in that section of the county. The land lies in Liberty, Washington and Johnson townships.

The Hoss children received their education in the local schools. The family belongs to St. Joseph's German Catholic church in Le Mars.

AUGUST PRUST.

August Prust, one of Plymouth county's best-known pioneer farmers and an honored veteran of the Civil War, now living in retirement in Le Mars, was born in Pommern, Germany, June 18, 1839, a son of Frederick and Augusta Prust, both natives of Germany, where they grew up, married and located on a large farm. They came to America in 1857, the voyage from Hamburg to New York requiring thirty-six days. They established their home in the town of Gutenberg, Clayton county, Iowa, where the father worked as a laborer. He brought his family to Plymouth county in 1868, homesteading eighty acres in Hungerford township, where he farmed until he retired and moved to Le Mars where he spent his last days. His family consisted of but two children, August, the subject of this sketch, and Fred, of Minnesota.

August Prust grew to manhood in Germany, where he attended school. After leaving school he worked as a teamster for three years. He came to Iowa with the rest of the family and worked with his father on the farm, also hired out as a farm hand in Clayton county, receiving sometimes as low as eight dollars a month. At the outbreak of the Civil War he went to St. Louis and enlisted in Company C, Fiftieth Missouri Volunteer Cavalry, with which command he served for more than three years with credit, taking part in the following battles, besides numerous skirmishes: Pea Ridge, Hamburg Landing, Jackson, Corinth, Raymond, and at the siege of Vicksburg, where he was shot through the thigh. After he was wounded he was in a military hospital from July to October. He has never fully recovered from his wound. After leaving the hospital Mr. Prust rejoined his regiment at Huntsville, Alabama, and was mustered out of the service and honorably discharged at Cartersville, Georgia, October 18, 1864. He returned to Clay-

ton county, Iowa, where he spent part of the winter, then went to St. Louis, where he worked until coming to Plymouth county in 1869, homesteading eighty acres in Hungerford township, where he farmed until 1889, developing a good place through hard work. He then moved to Le Mars. Mr. Prust has managed well and has been quite successful. He has added to his original eighty until he now owns six hundred and thirty-one acres of valuable land. After moving to Le Mars Mr. Prust engaged in the insurance and real-estate business with his nephew, Herman Prust, but during the past twenty years has lived in retirement.

In 1869 August Prust was married to Amelia Long, a daughter of August Long and wife, which union was without issue. Mr. Prust has been quite successful in a business way. He had but a few dollars when he came to Plymouth county, but has for years been recognized as one of the county's most substantial citizens. He is a Republican and has served as a member of the school board and was trustee of his township while living on the farm. He belongs to the German Lutheran church and was a trustee in the church while living in Hungerford township.

PETER MUELLER.

Peter Mueller, one of the best-known farmers of Marion township, this county, is a native of Europe, but has been a resident of this country since the days of his young manhood. He was born on a farm in the grand duchy of Luxemburg on January 6, 1869, son of Nicholas and Margaret (Fuhrman) Mueller, natives of that same district, who spent all their lives in their native land. They were the parents of eight children, four of whom came to this country, those besides the subject of this sketch being Elizabeth, who is now living in Canada; Mathias, who is now farming in the state of Idaho, and John P., of Remsen, this county.

Upon coming to the United States, Peter Mueller came directly to Iowa and located in this county, his first season here being spent on the John Gengler farm near Remsen, in Marion township. He then went up into Sioux county and after a season there went over into Cherokee county, where he spent a season, at the end of which time he returned to Plymouth county and the following season farmed in Marion township. He then, in the year 1893, took up painting and for a year was thus engaged in Remsen. Following his marriage the next year he continued to make his

home in Remsen for a couple of years and then moved to Meadow township, where he farmed for three years, at the end of which time he moved to Henry township, where he remained three years, and then to Union township, where he remained eleven years, or until 1913, when he moved onto the John Rogers place in Marion township, where he is now making his home and where he is very successfully farming four hundred acres of land.

As noted above, it was in 1894 that Peter Mueller was united in marriage, at Remsen, to Mary Kittel, who was also born in Luxemburg, and to this union nine children have been born, Margaret, John (who died on January 17, 1916), Elizabeth, Leo, Nicholas, Peter, Jr., Raymond (deceased), Katie and Roma. The Muellers are members of St. Mary's Catholic church at Remsen and take a proper interest in parish affairs, as well as in the general social activities of the community in which they live. In his political affiliations Mr. Mueller is a Democrat. He is a member of the Catholic Mutual Protective Society.

CHARLES H. KLUCKHOHN.

Charles H. Kluckhohn, now deceased, and at one time one of the prominent and successful merchants of Le Mars, was born at Cedar Lake, Indiana, on February 28, 1853, the son of Henry and Wilhelmena Kluckhohn, natives of the province of Hanover, Germany, who soon after their marriage, came to the United States. They located at Cedar Lake, Indiana, where they lived for many years. It was at Cedar Lake that Charles H. Kluckhohn received his education and grew to manhood. Upon completing his schooling he went to Chicago, where he worked in a grocery store until 1873, when he came to Iowa and at Le Mars he and his brother-in-law, Ruben Lowe, established themselves in the grocery business. This partnership continued until the death of Mr. Lowe, after which Mr. Kluckhohn conducted the business for a time, or until Mr. Kehrberg became a partner, the business then being conducted under the name of the Kluckhohn & Kehrberg Company. From year to year the stock was increased and the business became one of the largest in the county. Mr. Kluckhohn remained in the store until a few years before his death, which occurred on March 6, 1912. He was the pioneer merchant of Le Mars and laid the foundation for the largest department store in Plymouth county, long hav-



CHARLES H. KLUCKHOHN

ing been recognized as one of the leading merchants in northwestern Iowa. In addition to his large interests in the mercantile line, Mr. Kluckhohn was also one of the largest landowners in the county.

On September 7, 1876, Charles H. Kluckhohn was united in marriage to Lena Bingenheimer, daughter of Charles and Mary Elizabeth (Rudel) Bingenheimer, and to this union four children were born, Bertha, Cora, Cassie and George. Bertha died in Germany, where she had gone to pursue a course in music; Cora died six years ago; Carrie, who died in 1903, was the wife of Clyde Maben and the mother of one child, Clyde, and George, who married Katherine Swanzey, has one child, Jane.

Charles and Mary Elizabeth Bingenheimer were both natives of Germany and came to this country in early life, the father having come here alone at the age of thirteen years and located in Wisconsin, near the town of East Troy, where he was employed as a farm hand for a number of years, and where he was married. At the outbreak of the Civil War he was true to the cause of his adopted country, enlisted for service and for four years served in the Union army. At the close of the war he returned to his home in Wisconsin, where he resided until 1873, when he and his family came to Iowa and located on a farm east of Le Mars. Mr. and Mrs. Bingenheimer were the parents of seven children, five of whom are now living. They were prominent members of the German Methodist church and were highly respected people.

WILLIAM KELLEN.

A well-known and highly-respected citizen of Plymouth county is William Kellen, a retired farmer of Le Mars; another enterprising native of Luxemburg, where he was born in May, 1857. He is a son of Nicholas and Catherine (Kinsinger) Kellen, also natives of Luxemburg where they grew up and were married, establishing their home there on a farm. They brought their family to America in 1875, locating at Caledonia, Houston county, Minnesota, where they spent five years on a rented farm; then went to Sioux county, Iowa, and took up a homestead near Alton, which they developed into a good farm and finally owned four hundred acres, on which they spent the rest of their lives, the father dying at the age of sixty-five years. The mother died at the age of forty-seven. To these parents eight children were born, namely: Matthew, who is a retired farmer, of Alton, Iowa; William,

the subject of this sketch; Peter, who is farming in Sioux county, Iowa; Thomas, who is farming in South Dakota; Edward, who is farming at Iona Lake, Minnesota; Margaret, deceased; Catherine, who is a professional nurse and lives in Massachusetts, and John, who is farming at Madison, Minnesota.

William Kellen received only a limited education in the country schools. He remained at home until he was twenty-seven years old. He was first married in 1884, to Lena Werner, a native of Germany and a daughter of Joseph and Catherine (Eich) Werner, natives of Germany, from which country they came to the United States, locating at Chicago, and later to Stanton township, Plymouth county, where the mother died. Mr. Werner is living at Bancroft, Iowa. He had two children, Lena, who married Mr. Kellen, and Mrs. Annie Wall, who lived at Salem, South Dakota, and is now deceased.

To Mr. Kellen and his first wife the following children were born: Christina, who married Frank Wilhelmi, of Bancroft, Iowa, and has five children; Nicholas, who is operating his father's farm, married Clara Venner and has four children; Mathias, who is farming at Madison, Minnesota, married Anna Stovell, and has one child; John, who is farming at Madison, Minnesota, married Emma Stovell, and has one child; Catherine, who lives at home, is teaching in Plymouth county, and William, who is farming at Madison, Minnesota. On January 14, 1906, William Kellen married, secondly, Mrs. Sophia Bockelman, of Dyersville, Iowa, widow of Henry Bockelman, a native of Germany, who came to Dyersville and engaged in farming until his death, May 1, 1902. She was a daughter of Herman and Elizabeth (Banke) Schlickelman, natives of Oldenburg, Germany, from which country they came to America and settled at Dyersville, Iowa, on a farm, and there they spent the rest of their lives, her death occurring in 1888 and his in 1893. Mr. Kellen's second wife had five children by her first marriage, three of whom are living, Mrs. Frank Soffie and Mrs. Kobberman, both of Salem, South Dakota, and Frances, who is at home with her mother.

After his first marriage, Mr. Kellen located in America township, Plymouth county, buying one hundred and twenty acres, to which he later added until he had a valuable farm of three hundred and twenty acres; later selling all but eighty acres, then bought three-quarters of a section near Madison, Minnesota, which land is now operated by his sons. He continued farming in America township until his retirement a number of years ago, when

he moved to Le Mars and bought his present fine home on Court street. He was very successful as a general farmer and stock raiser.

Politically, Mr. Kellen is a Democrat. He belongs to St. Joseph's Catholic church at Le Mars.

THEODORE GENGLER.

Theodore Gengler, one of Plymouth county's best-known and most substantial pioneer farmers, the owner of a fine farm of four hundred and eighty acres in Marion township, where he makes his home, former township clerk and former assessor, is a native of Europe, but has been a resident of this country since the days of his young manhood. He was born in the grand duchy of Luxemburg on September 6, 1850, son of Michael and Kate Gengler, both of whom were born in that same grand duchy, who came with their family to the United States in 1873 and located at Bridewood, in Will county, Illinois, where for four years Michael Gengler and his sons worked in the coal mines there. In his native country Michael Gengler had been a miller. After four years of labor in the mines in Illinois he decided to become a farmer and in 1877 followed his son, Theodore, who had settled in Plymouth county the year before, to this county and bought a quarter of a section of land in Marion township, paying for the same six dollars and fifty cents an acre, and there established his home, he and his wife spending the remainder of their lives there. They were the parents of five children, four of whom are now living, those besides the subject of this sketch, the eldest, being John, of Fredonia township, this county; Nicholas, of Marion township, and John P., who lives with his brother, Theodore.

Theodore Gengler was reared as a mill boy in his native land, working with his father in the mill there until he was well grown, when he went to France and in that country worked as a farmer and as a miller until he came to this country with his family in 1873, the family, as noted above, settling at Bridewood, Illinois. There Theodore Gengler worked in the coal mines until 1876, when he came to Iowa and bought a quarter of a section of land in Marion township for the whole family. The family worked together for a number of years. They bought more land but when the mother died the father gave up farming and they divided the land.

Theodore became owner of the old place of one hundred and sixty acres and a year later he bought forty acres more, making his farm then two hundred acres, and since then he has added to his possessions until now he is the owner of a fine farm of four hundred and eighty acres and has long been regarded as one of the most substantial farmers in that part of the county. Mr. Gengler suffered the privations common to the pioneer life of this section of the state in the days of the grasshopper visitations, but stuck to his place and eventually did very well. In addition to his general farming he gives considerable attention to the raising of live stock and feeds most of his grain on the place; in addition to the cattle he raises, keeping about one hundred and fifty head of hogs. His horses are of the Belgian breed.

In 1879, about three years after coming to this county, Theodore Gengler was united in marriage to Anna Weiler and to this union three children have been born, namely: Michael, who married Margreth Getzinger and has two children, Mary and Michael; Lena, who married John Nillis and has one child, a son, Theodore, and Mary, who is living at Rochester, Minnesota. The Genglers are members of the Catholic church at Remsen and take a warm interest in parish affairs. Mr. Gengler is a member of the Luxemburger Bunderbund of America and of the Mutual Protective Society of his church and gives his earnest attention to the affairs of both organizations. He is a Democrat and has served his community in the capacity of township clerk, as assessor, as school director and as supervisor of roads in his district, ever taking a good citizen's interest in local civic affairs, a ready promoter of all movements designed to advance the general welfare of the community in which he lives.

HENRY SCHWEPPE.

It is always interesting to study the career of a self-made man, one who has successfully overcome the many obstacles in the pathway of life and, by his individual efforts, has forged ahead in spite of all opposition. Such a man is Henry Schweppe, who came to Plymouth county from a foreign shore many years ago and by close application and good management laid by a competency from his farming operations, and is now living in retirement in Le Mars.

Henry Schweppe was born in Minden, Westphalia, Germany, May 10,

1843, a son of Herman and Elizabeth (Schultz) Schweppe, also natives of that locality, where they grew up, married and established their home, and there continued to reside until they sailed for the shores of America in 1850, locating in Dane county, Wisconsin, twenty-one miles west of Madison, securing there wild timber land, when deer, wolves and other wild animals were still abundant. He erected a log cabin and began clearing and improving his place, where he farmed until his death in 1869. Later his widow came to Hamilton county, Iowa, where her death occurred. To these parents seven children were born, namely: John, deceased; Henry, the subject of this sketch; Kate, who lives in Hamilton county, Iowa; Herman, who also lives in Hamilton county; Fred, deceased; William, who met death in a cyclone in Kossuth county, Iowa, and Louis, who lives in Hamilton county.

Henry Schweppe was eight years old when his parents brought him to America. He assisted his father with the work on the home farm in Wisconsin and had little chance to obtain an education. He remained at home until he was twenty-five years old, then came to Hamilton county, Iowa, where he engaged in farming for twelve years. In 1889 he came to Plymouth county, buying one hundred and twenty acres in Washington township, where he continued general farming with his usual success until 1905, when he retired and moved to Le Mars, where he owns a good home and has since resided. He made many important improvements on his land and increased his holdings to two hundred and forty acres.

On April 11, 1868, Mr. Schweppe was married to Sarah Dieticker, a native of Switzerland and a daughter of John and Elizabeth (Arnsler) Dieticker, of that republic, where they grew up and were married and established their home on a farm. In 1861 they came to America, locating in Dane county, Wisconsin, where they lived for five years; then came to Hamilton county, Iowa, where they lived thirteen years; then moved to Plymouth county on a farm, where the father died. The mother died in Le Mars. To these parents ten children were born, namely: Sam, who lives in Brunsville, Iowa; John, who lives in Paola, Kansas; Anna, deceased; Barbara, deceased; Mary, the widow of Lewis Phors, of Sioux City, Iowa; Jacob, deceased; George, who lives in Leeds, Iowa; Lena, deceased; Kate, who lives in Sioux City, and Sarah, wife of the subject of this sketch.

Seven children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Schweppe, namely: Louise, who married A. E. Small, of Firesteel, South Dakota, and has five children, Ralph, Floyd, Mary, Henry and Blanche; Annie, who married Albert Ford, of Buffalo, Kansas, and had eight children, Ruby, Walter,

Sophia, Esther, Clifton (deceased), Marvin, Byron and Clayton; Mary, who married John Kistle, of Shell Lake, Wisconsin, and has three children, Adel, Lafonz and Edith; Emil, who married Ethel Martin, of Spokane, Washington, and has one child, Everett; George, deceased, and Albert who is farming near Miller, South Dakota, married Cora Grimes and has three children, Milton, Melvin and Marvel.

Mr. Schweppe is a Republican, was road supervisor for twelve years while living on the farm and also served as school director. He belongs to the German Methodist church.

ONNO CROON.

Although a straightforward business man with little inclination to public leadership, Onno Croon, for many years a well-known farmer and banker at Craig, has contributed much to the general upbuilding of Plymouth county, while his admirable characteristics have made him highly respected and have won the good will of all who have come in contact with him.

Onno Croon was born in Hanover, Germany, February 12, 1859, a son of Cornelius and Allie (Whitges) Croon, both natives of Hanover, where they grew up, married and lived on a farm until they came to America in 1867. They located at Mt. Olive, Illinois, and resumed farming, but later moved to Nokomis, Illinois, where they lived two years. The father's death occurred in 1871 and the mother survived until 1905, reaching an advanced age. To these parents four children were born, three of whom are still living, namely: Henry lives in Craig, Iowa; Onno, the subject of this sketch and Cornelius, who lives in Nokomis, Illinois.

Onno Croon was eight years old when his parents brought him to America, and he went to school at Nokomis, Illinois. He took up farming and rented land near there two years. In 1882 he came to Iowa and bought one hundred and sixty acres in Grant township, this county, for which he paid fifteen dollars an acre. The land was partly improved, but had no buildings on it. Mr. Croon worked hard, made all the present excellent improvements and carried on general farming and stock raising there until the spring of 1912, when he retired from active life and moved to Craig. However, he still owns his farm place. Mr. Croon is president of the German Savings Bank of Craig and has held that position since the organization of the bank and has been very largely responsible for its substantial and rapid

growth, managing its affairs in a manner that has reflected much credit upon himself and to the satisfaction of all concerned. He has been very successful and has long been regarded as one of the progressive men of affairs of Grant township, although he had very little of this world's good when he first came here.

In 1883 Onno Croon was married to Anna Johnson, a daughter of Harm Johnson and wife, and to this union three children have been born, Cornelius, Etta and Ella. The latter is the wife of Howard Grubbs and they have one child.

Mr. Croon is a Republican and has served as trustee and as assessor of Grant township. He is a member of the German Evangelical Lutheran church at Craig, which he helped organize and build. During his residence of nearly thirty-five years in this community he has taken an abiding interest in the general welfare of the township in which he is so well and favorably known, and has done much to advance the general interests of the community.

EDGAR M. GASPER.

Much depends on the kind of start one gets in this world, just as it does in a race. The horse that gets the best start, all other things being equal, will almost invariably win the race. So in the race of life: if one is properly started, with suitable grooming, such as good educational and home training, one will lead in the race in after years and enjoy existence, at the same time accomplishing something worth while and be of service to his associates. Edgar M. Gasper, an enterprising young merchant of Kingsley, seems to have been properly started out in life.

Edgar M. Gasper was born in Plymouth county, Iowa, July 17, 1890. He is a son of J. P. and Mary (Bain) Gasper, and a grandson of Nicholas Gasper, a native of Luxemburg, from which country he came to the United States when a young man, locating in Dubuque county, Iowa, on a farm, an early pioneer in that county. He was a soldier in the War of 1812. His death occurred when he was about sixty-five years old.

J. P. Gasper, the father, was born, reared and educated in Dubuque county, Iowa. He came to Plymouth county, locating at Kingsley when the place was first started, and there he kept a general store, enjoying a large trade with the surrounding country. In 1914, the old building having become inadequate, was torn down and the present neat, substantial and mod-

ern building erected, but he retired from active life in 1914, since which time his son Edgar M., the subject of this sketch, has been managing the same, having purchased it. He has increased the stock and is doing a large and satisfactory business. The father owns considerable valuable property in Kingsley. Politically, he is a Democrat and was postmaster for several years. He belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America. He was married in 1881, to Mary Bain, who was born at Kenosha, Wisconsin, a daughter of Nicholas Bain, and to this union four children have been born, Harry, Ethel, Leo and Edgar M.

Edgar M. Gasper grew to manhood at Kingsley and received a common-school education. On February 12, 1914, he married Mabel Teehey, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dan Teehey. She was born in Anthon, Iowa, and received a common-school education. To Mr. and Mrs. Gasper one child has been born, a son, Max, whose birth occurred on May 10, 1915.

Since taking charge of the store, Edgar M. Gasper has operated it exclusively as a grocery, carrying about a three-thousand-dollar stock of well-selected staple and fancy groceries. Mr. Gasper is a Democrat and a member of the Knights of Columbus. He is a member of the Catholic church and gives proper attention to parish affairs as well as to the general affairs of the community in which he lives, being regarded as one of the leading factors in the life of that community.

JURGEN RENKEN.

Jurgen Renken, one of the most substantial farmers in the north central part of Plymouth county and the proprietor of a fine farm in Grant township, now living retired at Le Mars, is a native of Germany, but has been a resident of this county since pioneer days, having come out here in 1871, among the earliest settlers of the county. He was born in Hanover on November 8, 1850, son of Herman Conrad and Hilka Marie Renken, also natives of Germany, the former of whom was a small farmer and also held a position under government, having been a man of education. He and his wife were the parents of eight children, seven of whom came to the United States and four of whom are still living: Margaret, who married Gerhart Popkin; Ameta, who married Albert Albers, and Gerhart and Jurgen, who are living at Le Mars. The father of these children died when his son Jurgen was eight years of age and his widow some years later came



-HARRIS Photo-
Lithography
12-13-08.

to this country, her last days being spent in this county, where she died in 1892.

Jurgen Renken was given a good education in his native land and was sixteen years of age when he came to this country with his mother in 1866, locating in Jones county, this state, where he remained, engaged as a farm hand, until 1871, when he came to Plymouth county. He started to drive over from Jones county in February of 1871, but on account of continued rains and the impassable condition of the roads was obliged to abandon that method of travel and the trip as far as Sioux City was completed by rail. Upon his arrival here Mr. Renken bought a tract of eighty acres in section 15 of Grant township, set up a small shack, twelve by fourteen, and a straw barn on the same and started in to break the sod and develop his farm. He also set out a grove, which after awhile became a most attractive feature of his place. During the grasshopper devastations of the middle seventies Mr. Renken suffered in common with all the early settlers hereabout, but he was not discouraged by such setbacks and "stuck to the job," presently beginning to see his way clear, and it was not long until he was on the high road to prosperity. As he prospered in his operations, Mr. Renken added to his land holdings until he became the owner of one thousand and forty acres of land in this county, besides valuable lands in the Panhandle section of Texas. He personally managed a four-hundred-acre farm in Grant township, surrounding his original home, and improved that place until he had expended more than fifteen thousand dollars in the way of improvements, developing one of the best farms in the county. In addition to his general farming he for years gave considerable attention to the raising of live stock and early became recognized as one of the foremost farmers and stockmen in the county. In 1912 he and his wife retired from the farm and moved to Le Mars, where they are now living and where they are very comfortably and very pleasantly situated. Mr. Renken is a Republican and has ever given his earnest attention to local political affairs, for years having acted as trustee of Grant township and also as school director in his home district. He is the president of the German Savings Bank at Craig and owns a controlling interest in the same.

In 1881 Jurgen Renken was united in marriage to Wilhelmina Sophia Berg, who also was born in Germany, daughter of William and Minnie Berg, who came to this country in 1880 and located in Grant township, this county, where William Berg bought one hundred and twenty acres in section 15 and there established his home. His wife died in 1899 and in 1901 he retired from the farm and has since made his home in the household of

the Renkens. William Berg and wife were the parents of three children, Mrs. Renken having two brothers, Louis and Herman Berg. To Mr. and Mrs. Renken nine children have been born, namely: Herman, who married Anna Brabender and has six children, George, Herman, Louis, Lawrence, Raymond and Florence; John, who married Kate Nubben and has three children, Fred, Bernard and Alice; Gerhart, who married Ricka Oetken and has four children, Gerhart, Herman, William and Luella; Minnie, who married Rank Oetken and has four children, George, Harry, Rose and Mildred; Mary, who married Conrad Garets; Anna, who married William Garets and has one child, a son, Leonard, and Emma, George and Bertha, who are unmarried. The Renkens are members of the German Evangelical Lutheran church at Le Mars and take an earnest interest in the affairs of the same. Mr. Renken was one of the organizers and a charter member of the church of that denomination in Grant township and for years was a member of the board of trustees of the same.

JAMES McCARTNEY.

James McCartney, a well-known retired farmer of Kingsley, this county, and an honored veteran of the Civil War, was born in Chester county, Pennsylvania, on April 1, 1842, the son of Nicholas and Catherine (Hibbert) McCartney.

Nicholas McCartney was born in Ireland, of Scotch-Irish descent. At the age of twelve years he came to the United States and for a time worked on a farm for his uncle in Ohio, after which he took up his residence in Chester county, Pennsylvania, where he worked in a factory. He married Catherine Hibbert in Philadelphia and some years later, with his family, came to Iowa, locating in Delaware county in the fall of 1856. They established their home on a farm and there the parents resided for many years. The father was a member of the Presbyterian church, while the mother held membership in the Episcopal church. They were the parents of eight children, William, John, James, Robert, Nicholas, David, Mary and Ellen.

James McCartney was but a lad when he came to Iowa with his parents and his young manhood was spent on the farm. He served as a soldier during the Civil War and was married in Jones county to Alice C. Croston and in 1866 came to Plymouth county, where he engaged in gen-

eral farming and stock raising for many years, after which he retired from the active duties of the farm and moved to Kingsley, where he now resides. During his active life Mr. McCartney was for twelve years engaged in the buying of grain and he also spent some time in California. For a time he lived at Le Mars and for five years was a resident of Cass county, Missouri, where he devoted much of his time to the chicken business. When he first came to Plymouth county, Mr. McCartney homesteaded one hundred and sixty acres of land in Union township, which he developed and improved, becoming one of the successful men of that section of the county. He took much interest in local affairs and for some years served his township as trustee. He and his wife always took much interest in the services of the Methodist Episcopal church of which they were members.

During the Civil War Mr. McCartney demonstrated his patriotism by enlisting in the service of the Union Army in 1862 and served until the end of the war. He was assigned to Company K, Twenty-first Regiment, Iowa Volunteer Infantry, and served under General Grant at Vicksburg, where he was wounded three times within an hour, bullets taking effect in the arm, leg and stomach. In addition to the Vicksburg campaign, he saw much active service throughout that memorable struggle. At the close of the war he returned to Iowa and was one of the very first settlers in the county, where he lived for so many years. He still remembers distinctly having killed elk, deer, wild turkey and other game where the town of Kingsley now stands. At that time Sioux City was the nearest market of importance, and the only means of transportation over the prairie trails at that time was with an ox-team, slow and uncertain. Today, where now are well-cultivated fields of growing grain, substantial and modern farm buildings, schools and churches, there waved then the tall prairie grass, broken here and there by a sod house or a little shanty, built of logs or rough boards. The primitive house in which Mr. McCartney and his wife lived would not turn rain, and they had to use an umbrella to keep the water off the bed while they slept.

Mr. McCartney broke the first ground on his farm with an ox-team and his first help was an Indian with his squaw, who helped him with his harvest. It is needless to say that such help was not at all times the most satisfactory, yet it was the best that could be had in those days. Such was the life experienced by many of the early settlers of this section, who have taken such an important part in the transformation of the wild prairie into the well-cultivated fields of today.

JERRY SHEA.

Jerry Shea, one of Plymouth county's best-known and most progressive farmers, the owner of a fine farm of nearly three hundred acres in Marion township, where he has a very pleasant home, is a native of the state of Illinois, but has been a resident of this county since 1881. He was born on a farm in Jo Daviess county, Illinois, December 13, 1855, son of John and Margaret (Murphy) Shea, natives of County Cork, Ireland, whose last days were spent in Illinois.

John Shea came across the water from the Emerald Isle when a lad and settled in Canada, where he married Margaret Murphy, who had left her home in County Cork with her parents when a girl, the family settling in Canada; and not long after their marriage they came across the line to this country and located at Galena, Illinois, where for some time John Shea worked in the lead mines. He then bought a farm in that vicinity and there he and his wife spent the remainder of their lives, he dying at the age of seventy and she when past eighty years of age. They were members of the Catholic church and their children were reared in the faith of that church. There were nine of these children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the fifth in order of birth, the others being as follow: Honora, who died in Illinois; Dennis, also deceased; Timothy, who is in California; Ellen, who died in California; John, who is in California; Catherine, deceased; Daniel, who is living in the state of Washington, and Josephine, deceased.

Reared on the home farm in Illinois, Jerry Shea received his schooling in the schools of that neighborhood and remained at home, assisting his father in the labors of the farm, until 1878, when he went to California, where he remained, working on ranches and at various forms of employment, until 1881, in which year he came to Iowa and settled in Plymouth county, where he ever since has made his home. That was the year of his marriage and upon coming here he rented a farm and on the same made his home for five years, at the end of which time he bought a tract of one hundred and sixty acres in section 36 of Marion township, where he now lives, and there established his home. At the time Mr. Shea bought that place there were but meager improvements on the same and all the present fine improvements on the place have been made by himself. As he prospered in his farming operations, Mr. Shea added to his land holdings until now he is the owner of a fine farm of two hundred and eighty acres. In addition to his general farming he gives considerable attention to the raising of high-

grade live stock and has done very well, long having been regarded as one of the most substantial farmers in that part of the county. Mr. Shea is a Democrat and gives a good citizen's attention to local political affairs, but has never been included in the office-seeking class.

It was in the fall of 1881 that Jerry Shea was united in marriage to Mary DeViche, who was born in Clayton county, this state, daughter of Constantine C. DeViche and wife, natives of Germany, who came to Plymouth county in 1881 and settled in Marion township, where they spent the remainder of their lives. To Mr. and Mrs. Shea have been born eight children, namely, Kate, who married Thomas Nillis, of Marion township, this county, and has six children; John, who is farming on his father's place, married May Peters and has two children; Daniel, who is farming in Tripp county, South Dakota, married Nettie McCoy and has three children; Mayme, who married Fred Jander, of Sioux City, and has two children; Lawrence, at home; Louise, deceased, and Josephine and Francis, at home. The Sheas are members of St. Mary's Catholic church at Remsen and take a proper interest in parish affairs, as well as in the general social activities and good works of the neighborhood in which they live, ever helpful in promoting all movements designed to advance the common welfare thereabout.

JOHN B. WOLF.

John B. Wolf, one of the best-known and most progressive farmers of the Remsen neighborhood and the owner of a fine farm of more than two hundred acres lying in Marion and Remsen townships, his home being located in the former township, is a native son of Iowa and has lived in this state all his life. He was born in the city of Bellevue, in Jackson county, this state, September 13, 1871, son of John and Margaret (Manderscheid) Wolf, natives of Europe, both born in the grand duchy of Luxemburg, who came to Iowa in the days of their youth, were married in Jackson county, later settling in this county, going thence to Sioux county, where he spent his last days, the latter now making her home with her children.

John Wolf came to the United States when a young man and located in Jackson county, this state, being among the early settlers of that county. During the Civil War he enlisted as a private in an Iowa regiment and served for two years as a soldier in the Union army, seeing service in Georgia, Florida, Kentucky and Alabama. Upon the completion of his military

service he returned to this state and for several years thereafter ran a dray line in Bellevue, later farming, and remained in Jackson county until 1884, in which year he moved to Plymouth county and bought a quarter of a section of land in Meadow township, not far north of Remsen, where he made his home for four years, at the end of which time he moved over into the neighboring county of Sioux, where he spent the remainder of his life. His widow, now seventy-six years of age, makes her home with her children. There are nine of these children, all living, of whom the subject of this sketch is the second in order of birth, the others being as follow: Mrs. Lena Boever, who lives in Sioux county; Mrs. Elizabeth Goddard, of Carroll county, this state; Mrs. Mary Kramer, of Norfolk, Nebraska; William, of Sioux county, this state; Mrs. Anna Stroben, of Remsen; Mrs. Christina Thielan, of Carroll county; Edward, who lives in this county, and Peter, who lives at Lismore, in Nobles county, Minnesota.

John B. Wolf was about thirteen years of age when his parents moved from Jackson county to Plymouth county in 1884 and he remained at home, a valuable assistant to his father in the labors of the farm, until his marriage in the summer of 1897, when he rented a farm in Fredonia township, this county, and there made his home for six years, at the end of which time, in March, 1904, he bought the farm known as the McCune homestead, in section 36 of Marion township, and there established his home. Mr. Wolf has prospered in his farming operations and is now the owner of a fine farm of two hundred and two acres, a part of which lies in Remsen township. In 1916 he erected a handsome new residence, a twelve-room house, equipped with a hot-water heating plant, electric lights and all modern conveniences, at a cost of more than six thousand dollars, and there he and his family are very pleasantly situated. The other improvements on the farm are in keeping with the house, the farm buildings representing an expenditure of about thirty-five hundred dollars, and Mr. Wolf's farm plant is regarded as one of the best in that part of the county. Mr. Wolf is a Democrat and has on several occasions been elected to township office, ever taking an active interest in local civic affairs.

It was on June 22, 1897, that John B. Wolf was united in marriage to Mary Schetler, who was born near Le Mars, this county, daughter of Henry and Barbara (Kiefer) Schetler, natives of Germany, who came to this country in the days of their youth, both settling, with their respective families, in Jackson county, this state, where they were married, later coming to Plymouth county and settling on a farm east of Le Mars, later moving to

Granville and thence to Fredonia township, where Henry Schetler died in May, 1908. His wife had preceded him to the grave many years, her death having occurred when she was thirty-five years of age. They were the parents of two children, Mrs. Wolf having a sister, Mrs. Verena Krell, of Blooming Prairie, Minnesota. After the death of his first wife Henry Schetler married Barbara Gasper, and to that union four children were born, namely, Mrs. Clara Erperding, of Wadena, Minnesota; Henry, of Fredonia township, this county; William, who lives on the old Schetler home place in Fredonia township, and Leon, also living there. To Mr. and Mrs. Wolf have been born five children, Julius, Cornelius, Joseph, Elmer and Celestinus. The Wolf family are members of St. Mary's Catholic church at Remsen and take a proper interest in parish affairs, as well as in the general social activities of the community in which they live.

FRANK L. NOAHR.

The Craig Independent, one of the best country newspapers in Plymouth and adjoining counties, has an enterprising editor and publisher in the person of Frank L. Noahr, postmaster of Craig, who was born at Batavia, Illinois, January 24, 1869. He is a son of Lewis and Ellen (DeGraff) Noahr, both natives of Batavia, Illinois, where they grew to maturity, attended school and were married. The father was a painter and paper hanger by trade. He and his wife now reside at Letcher, South Dakota, in which state all of their ten children reside with the exception of Frank L., the subject of this sketch. The latter received his education in the schools of Grundy county, Iowa, whither his parents removed from Waterloo, this state, in which town they settled in 1870. The father rented a farm in Grundy county which he operated until 1881, in which year he went to Letcher, South Dakota, and took up a homestead. Letcher was at that time the western terminus of the Milwaukee railroad in that part of the state.

Frank L. Noahr started out for himself at the age of nineteen, when he began learning the printer's trade at Lennox, South Dakota, where he worked for three years; then bought the *Lennox Independent*, which paper he published with success for a period of twenty-three years, selling out in 1911 and locating at Craig, this county, where he started the *Craig Independent*, which he has since published, the only newspaper Craig has ever had. The *Independent* is an eight-page weekly and is rapidly growing in

circulation and influence, its circulation now being about six hundred. The plant is up-to-date and is run by a gasoline engine.

On April 19, 1916, Frank L. Noahr was appointed postmaster at Craig and is discharging his official duties in a manner highly acceptable both to the people and to the postoffice department. He was married on April 15, 1892, to Lena Howard, of Lennox, South Dakota, and to this union two children have been born, Gladys, who married C. R. Westaby, of Madison, South Dakota, and has one child, Arlene; and Howard, who died when six months of age. Mr. Noahr is a Republican and is a staunch supporter of his party.

NICHOLAS GENGLER.

Nicholas Gengler, one of Plymouth county's best-known and most substantial farmers, owner of a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Marion township, where he and his family are very pleasantly and very comfortably situated, is a native of Luxemburg, but has been a resident of this country since he was seventeen years of age and of this county since he was twenty-one. He was born in the grand duchy of Luxemburg on March 6, 1856, son of Michael and Katherine (Zettinger) Gengler, both natives of that same district and the former of whom was engaged in the milling business there until 1873, when he came to this country with his family and settled in Will county, Illinois, where he and his sons worked in the coal mines until 1877, when they came to Iowa and located on a farm in Marion township, this county, where they established their home and where Michael Gengler and his wife spent their last days, the latter dying in 1888, at the age of sixty years, and the former, in 1895, at the age of seventy-four. They were members of the Catholic church, connected with St. Mary's parish at Remsen, and their children were reared in the faith of that church. There were five of these children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the fourth in order of birth, the others being as follow: Theodore, a well-known farmer of Marion township, this county; John, a farmer, of Fredonia township; John P., of Marion township, and Susan, who died in 1873, the year in which the family came to America.

Reared in his native Luxemburg until he was seventeen years of age, Nicholas Gengler received excellent schooling in both German and French and upon coming to this country perfected himself in English in the schools here. He was twenty-one years of age when the family moved from Illi-



NICHOLAS GENGLER AND FAMILY

nois to Plymouth county and shortly after his arrival here he began farming on his own account. Following his marriage in 1889 he and his wife established their home on a farm in section 1 of Union township, this county, Mr. Gengler there having bought a place of three hundred and twenty acres, at that time wild prairie land, and proceeded to develop and improve the same. Upon taking possession of that place Mr. Gengler put up a small house, one story in height, sixteen by twenty-six, and farm buildings suitable to his needs at that time, but as he developed his farm made other improvements until he had brought the place up to a high standard of development. There the Genglers made their home until 1903, when they moved to a farm of one hundred and twenty acres which Mr. Gengler had bought in section 29 of Marion township, and on this latter place they ever since have resided, now having one of the best-kept farms in that part of the county. Since taking possession of his Marion township farm Mr. Gengler has added to the same by the purchase of an adjoining "forty," has remodeled the house at an expense of about three thousand dollars, put up new farm buildings at an additional expense of about six thousand dollars, has planted shade trees and an orchard and has otherwise improved the place in excellent shape. In addition to his general farming he has given considerable attention to the raising of high-grade live stock and has done very well. Mr. Gengler is a Democrat and gives a good citizen's attention to local civic affairs. For some years he served as a member of the school board in his district and in other ways has given of his time to the public service.

It was in 1889 that Nicholas Gengler was united in marriage to Mary Salentiny, who was born at St. Paul, Minnesota, daughter of Nicholas and Mary (Gengler) Salentiny, natives of Luxemburg, who came to the United States in 1865 and after a some-time residence in St. Paul moved to a farm nine miles south of that city, where they lived until 1874, when they came to Iowa and settled on a quarter-section farm that Mr. Salentiny bought in Marion township, this county, and where he and his wife spent the rest of their lives. Mr. Salentiny was a substantial pioneer farmer and increased his holdings in Marion township until he became the owner of two hundred and eighty acres. His death occurred in 1904, he then being sixty-eight years of age, and his widow survived until 1911, she also being sixty-eight years of age at the time of her death. They were members of the Catholic church and their children were reared in that faith. There were twelve of these children, nine of whom are still living and of whom Mrs. Gengler is

the eldest, the others being as follow: Susie, who married Bernard Rody and died in 1896, leaving three children, James, Nellie and Mary; John, a resident of Le Mars, this county; Michael, also a resident of Le Mars; Mrs. Kate Luken, of Marshall, Minnesota; Lizzie, who is living at Sibley, this state; Maggie, who is living at Spokane, Washington; Nicholas, who married Lizzie Roerig and has one son, Joseph; Peter, of Le Mars, and Josephine, who is living in South Dakota. To Mr. and Mrs. Gengler five children have been born Mary, Annie, John, Michael and Lena, all of whom are living save the first-born. These children received their schooling in the local district school and in the parish school. The Genglers are members of St. Catharine's Catholic church at Oyens and take a proper interest in parish affairs, as well as in the general social activities of the community in which they live. Mr. Gengler is a member of the Mutual Protective Society of the church.

JOHN P. SCHROEDER.

John P. Schroeder, one of Marion township's best-known and most progressive young farmers and stockmen, was born on a pioneer farm in that township and has lived in the vicinity of the same all his life, his present home farm not being far from the old Schroeder home place on which he spent his boyhood. He was born on December 9, 1882, son of John and Helen (Treinen) Schroeder, early settlers of that part of Plymouth county, further mention of whom is made in a biographical sketch relating to the elder John Schroeder, presented elsewhere in this volume, and grew to manhood on the old home place, receiving his elementary schooling in the local district school and in the Catholic parochial school at Remsen, supplementing the same by a course in the college at Collegeville, Minnesota. From boyhood he was a valuable assistant to his father in the labors of developing the home farm and continued to make his home there until his marriage early in 1906, when he rented a quarter of a section of land in that vicinity and there made his home, farming the place, until in June, 1911, when he bought the quarter section in Marion township, which he is now farming, and where he ever since has made his home, he and his family being very pleasantly situated there. In addition to his own place, Mr. Schroeder is farming an adjoining tract of one hundred and twenty acres and is doing very well. He makes quite a specialty of his live stock and is now feeding about one hundred and fifty head of hogs, besides forty head

of cattle and seventeen horses. Since buying the place he has expended about five thousand dollars in the way of needed improvements and is now making preparations for the early erection of a modern country home on his farm. Mr. Schroeder is a Democrat and has ever taken interest in local civic affairs and has served as director of his local school district.

It was in February, 1906, that John P. Schroeder was united in marriage to Mary Loutsch, daughter of John Loutsch and wife, and to this union four children have been born, Clarence, Raymond, Helen and Alma. Mr. and Mrs. Schroeder are members of the Catholic church at Remsen and take a proper interest in parish affairs, as well as in the general social activities of the community in which they live, ever helpful in promoting movements designed to advance the common welfare thereabout.

HENRY G. JOHNSON

Another Plymouth county tiller of the soil, who, by close application and good management, has been able to lay by a competency for his old age, is Henry G. Johnson, who lived in Preston township many years, but is now a citizen of the village of Brunsville. He was born in Germany, September 21, 1860, and is a son of Edward Johnson and wife, who lived and died in Germany, their native land. They were parents of three children, Henry G. being the only one living in the United States.

Henry G. Johnson was reared in Germany, where he attended the common schools. He worked out as a farm hand until 1881, when he came to America, locating at Sterling, Illinois, where he worked on the farm of Claus Mammen, later coming on up into Iowa, where he worked as a farm hand for one year and then bought eighty acres in Johnson township, Plymouth county, which he farmed one year; then bought eighty acres in Preston township for which he paid twenty-five dollars an acre. To this he added more land as he prospered until he became owner of a productive and well-improved farm of three hundred and twenty acres. Mr. Johnson also owns one hundred and twenty acres of good land in Washington township. He continued successfully as a general farmer and stock raiser until 1911, when he retired from active life and moved to Brunsville, where he owns a modern home. He deserves a great deal of credit for what he has accomplished here, for when he came to Plymouth county he was entirely without funds.

Henry G. Johnson was married in Germany to Lena Rollop, a daughter of Henry Rollop and wife, of Germany, where she grew up and received her education. Nine children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Johnson, five of whom are living, Edward, John, Martin, Maggie and Dena, all of whom are married save the latter.

Mr. Johnson is a Democrat and has served as school director. He belongs to the German Lutheran church, of which he was a trustee for three years.

Edward J. Johnson, son of the subject of this sketch, was born in 1882 in Whiteside county, Illinois, and he grew to manhood on the farm and was educated in the public schools. He is now engaged in merchandising in Brunsville, where he has an extensive line of general merchandise and farming machinery; in fact, his store would be a credit to towns much larger than Brunsville, and he enjoys an excellent trade with the surrounding country. After leaving school he engaged in farming for four years. At the age of twenty-one he went to Mammen, Iowa, where he purchased a general store, which he conducted until 1910, in August of which year he came to Brunsville, where he had hauled the first load of lumber, for he built the first building there. He built a store forty-eight by fifty feet, with a wareroom eighteen by sixteen feet. He has been treasurer of the village since it first started. He married Sena Tjarks, a daughter of Gerhart Tjarks and wife, and to their union four children have been born, Elmer, Marie, Helen and Henry (deceased).

REV. ERNEST E. GILBERT.

Among these men of sterling attributes of character and strong religious tendencies who have impressed their personality upon the community honored by their residence, and have borne their share and more in the development of the moral and social conditions of Plymouth county, exerting a strong influence for good in all lines of endeavor, is the Rev. Ernest E. Gilbert, pastor of the Methodist Episcopal church at Le Mars, who was born in Minden, Ontario, Canada, on January 30, 1869, and is the son of William and Elizabeth (Clifton) Gilbert.

William Gilbert and wife, the paternal grandparents, were natives of Cornwall, England, while the maternal grandparents were born in London. The parents of Ernest E. Gilbert, William and Elizabeth Gilbert, were also

natives of Cornwall and London, respectively. They came with their parents, when but children, to Canada. The father was born on October 28, 1840, and the mother on October 27, 1848. They received their education in the schools of Canada and there, on February 26, 1865, were united in marriage at Lindsey, Ontario. They continued to reside in Canada until April, 1871, when they came to Iowa and established their home on a farm eleven miles north of Cherokee, where they resided for some years, at the end of which time they purchased a farm near Sutherland, on which they lived until they retired from the active duties of farm life and moved to the town of Sutherland, where they are now enjoying their well-earned rest, after a useful and active life. They are the parents of the following children: A. B., Ernest E., G. R., Mrs. Frank Bruner, S. W., L. C., L. H., Mrs. Leon Hill and Mrs. Anna Siefkin. A. B., Ernest E. and G. R. Gilbert are well known and successful ministers of the Gospel, the former being stationed at Petaluma, California, and the latter at Marcus, Iowa. Mrs. Siefkin resides at Calumet, Iowa; Mrs. Bruner, S. W. and L. H. Gilbert, at Sutherland; L. C. Gilbert at Alta, Iowa, and Mrs. Hill, at Sioux City.

Ernest E. Gilbert was but two years of age when his parents came to Iowa and settled on a farm and it was there that he spent his boyhood, receiving his elementary education in the local schools. In 1888 he entered Cornell College and remained a student in that institution for two years. He then entered the Upper Iowa University, where he studied until 1892. In 1895 he entered the Theological Institute of the Northwestern University and was graduated from that institution with the class of 1898, with the degree of Bachelor of Divinity. That same year he accepted the pastorate of the Methodist Episcopal church at Armstrong, Iowa, where he remained for three years, and during his pastoral work there built a three-thousand-dollar parsonage and paid the church debt. During the years 1901 to 1904 the Rev. Ernest E. Gilbert served the people of the charge at Ireton, where he built a parsonage, at a cost of three thousand five hundred dollars, and a church that cost eleven thousand dollars. At Cherokee, where he administered to the spiritual needs of the people from 1904 to 1907, he made improvements to the amount of seven hundred dollars, and at Ida Grove, where he was stationed from 1907 to 1911, improvements were made on the church property to the amount of thirteen hundred dollars. In 1911 Mr. Gilbert came to his present charge at Le Mars, where he and his people have completed a magnificent church, at a cost of thirty-six thousand dollars.

On August 26, 1890, Ernest E. Gilbert was united in marriage to Irene

E. Shafer, who was born at Cedar Falls, Iowa, June 25, 1868, the daughter of August Shafer and wife. Mrs. Gilbert was one of a family of six children, the others being as follow: Mrs. Emma Fuller, of South Sioux, Nebraska; Rev. E. E. Shafer, of Western, Nebraska; Simon Shafer, of Webster City, Iowa; B. A. Shafer of Dayton, Iowa, and Mrs. A. J. Ward of Tulsa, Oklahoma. To Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert have been born two children, Isla, born on May 15, 1898, and Wendell W., May 10, 1908. The daughter is now enrolled as a student in Morningside College.

Rev. Ernest E. Gilbert is a man of much ability and a speaker of note, and his influence for good has been most marked. He is a member of Giblem Lodge No. 322, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, at Le Mars and of the Ida Grove Homestead of the Brotherhood of American Yeomen.

JOHN BORTSCHELLER.

John Bortscheller, a well-known and substantial farmer of Marion township and former trustee of that township, is a native of the state of Illinois, but has been a resident of Plymouth county since he was ten years old. He was born on a farm in Illinois on October 29, 1872, son of Henry and Philomena (Miller) Bortscheller, natives of Bavaria, Germany, who came to the United States, landing at the port of New York and after a brief residence in that city came West and in 1854 settled in Illinois. There Henry Bortscheller began working on the Illinois Central railroad and after a couple of years of such employment bought a farm of eighty acres and began farming, continuing thus engaged in that state until 1882, in which year he sold his interests in Illinois and came to Iowa, settling on a farm in Fredonia township, this county, where he made his home until he retired from the active labors of the farm in 1898 and moved to Le Mars, where he and his wife spent their last days, she dying in 1911, at the age of seventy-five years, and he, in 1913, at the age of eighty-nine. They were members of St. Joseph's Catholic church at Le Mars and their children were reared in the faith of that church. There were nine of these children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the seventh in order of birth, the others being as follow: Charles, deceased; Mrs. Elizabeth Addison, of Baltimore, Maryland; Mrs. Joseph Pulham, of Le Mars; Anna, deceased; Frank, who is farming the old home place in Fredonia township; Michael, who

lives in Chicago; Mrs. Mary Lauters, of Marion township, this county, and Henry, deceased.

John Bortscheller was about ten years old when his parents moved from Illinois to this county and he grew to manhood on the home farm in Fredonia township, completing his schooling in the public and parochial schools of that neighborhood, remaining on the home farm until he was twenty-five years old, when he began farming on his own account in that same township. After his marriage in the fall of 1902 Mr. Bortscheller established his home on the farm on which he is now living, known as the old Mooney place, in Marion township, and there has resided ever since, he and his family being very pleasantly situated. In addition to his general farming, Mr. Bortscheller is giving considerable attention to the raising of high-grade live stock and is doing very well. In his political views he is "independent," but takes a warm interest in local civic affairs and for some time served as trustee of his home township.

It was in September, 1902, that John Bortscheller was united in marriage to Josephine Heissel, who was born in Buena Vista county, Iowa, daughter of John Heissel and wife, who came to Plymouth county years ago and settled on a farm in America township, and to this union five children have been born, Henry, Theckla, Alois, Francis and Stephen. The Bortschellers are members of St. Catharine's Catholic church at Oyens and take a proper interest in parish affairs, as well as in the general social activities of the community in which they live.

CAPT. B. F. BETSWORTH.

The man whose name heads this sketch was the first to locate on the present site of Le Mars. Captain Betsworth was born in Somerset county, Maryland, in 1817. He obtained only common-school educational advantages and at the age of seventeen years was apprenticed to a ship calker. Three years later he became interested in the oyster and fruit trade and presently became the owner of a schooner and was captain of the same for fifteen years. His home had been at Bergen Point, opposite New York city, but in 1856 he went to St. Charles, Illinois, and there, in Kane county, became a farmer, working three hundred and forty acres of land. In 1866 he came to Iowa and broke the first ground on the present site of Le Mars.

He built the first log house and the first two frame houses on that site. One of those houses, located on what is now Franklin street, was later owned by David Gibbs. The second house, built for Amos Marvin, was destroyed by fire. That building was near the present St. Joseph's Catholic church.

When the route of the Dubuque & Sioux City railroad (now the Illinois Central railroad) was surveyed through here Captain Betsworth owned the southwest quarter of section 9, and was induced by the company to exchange his farm for another tract, receiving from the company two hundred and forty acres in section 17 for his quarter section. He removed to his new place and there farmed until 1887, devoting his time and energies to agriculture. During that year he erected a good residence in the city of Le Mars and moved to the same, leading a retired life the remainder of his years. Captain Betsworth erected the first school house in town, and in that building his eldest son taught the pioneer school.

In December, 1839, in Somerset, Maryland, Captain Betsworth married Alvira Dorothy, who became the mother of fifteen children. Both Captain and Mrs. Betsworth were exemplary members of the Methodist Episcopal church. Time has swept this good couple from earth's circle, but the influence they exerted is still felt in the city in which they had the distinction of being pioneer settlers.

JAMES CLAY GILLESPIE.

James Clay Gillespie, editor and publisher of the *Le Mars Sentinel*, was born at Memphis, Missouri, in 1870, son of James and Sarah (Miller) Gillespie, natives of the state of Ohio, the former born in 1843 and the latter in 1844. James Gillespie, who died at his home in Memphis, Missouri, in 1911, was the son of William Gillespie and wife, natives of Ohio, who lived in that state until 1849, in which year they came to Iowa, settling in Van Buren county, and were thus numbered among the pioneers of this state. James Gillespie was but six years of age when his parents came to this state and here he grew to manhood. He married Sarah Miller, who also was born in Ohio, daughter of Alexander Miller and wife, natives of Pennsylvania, who had settled in Ohio, coming thence to this state in 1847. Shortly before his marriage James Gillespie located at Memphis, Missouri, where for many years he was the editor and proprietor of the *Memphis*



JAMES CLAY GILLESPIE

Reville, and where he spent his last days, his death occurring, as noted above, in April, 1911. His widow is still making her home at that place. They were the parents of eight children, three of whom are deceased, the others, besides the subject of this sketch, being W. W. Gillespie, Mrs. W. C. Ballow, H. G. Gillespie and Mrs. Elmer Bertram, all of Memphis, Missouri.

Reared at Memphis, Missouri, James C. Gillespie received his schooling in the schools of that city and upon completing the high-school course in 1888 entered his father's printing office and thoroughly familiarized himself with the details of the newspaper business, for years an active assistant to his father in the business and editorial management of the *Memphis Reville*. During his boyhood the family had for a time lived at Keosauqua, this state, and in 1902 James C. Gillespie returned to this state and bought a half interest in the *Star-Clipper*, at Traer, retaining his connection with that newspaper until July 1, 1907. On August 1 of that same year he bought the *Le Mars Sentinel* and has since been the owner and editor of the same. Mr. Gillespie is a Republican and the columns of his paper reflect the policies of that party. He has never been a candidate for any political office, but has always taken an active part in county and district politics and for six years served as chairman of the county Republican committee. Mr. Gillespie is a Royal Arch Mason and a Knight Templar, affiliated with the local lodge of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons at Le Mars and with the chapter and commandery at that place. He also is a member of Golden Jubilee Lodge, Knights of Pythias, and in the affairs of these organizations takes a warm interest. He is one of the organizers of the Le Mars Commercial Club and has been an officer of the same ever since its organization.

On June 14, 1904, at Alden, Iowa, James C. Gillespie was united in marriage to Bertha Ella Bennett, who was born at that place in 1877, daughter of H. W. Bennett and wife, the former of whom, born in New York in 1841, died in 1909, and the latter of whom, born in Vermont in 1838, is still living. Mrs. Gillespie is the youngest of the three children born to her parents, she having a brother, Claude S. Bennett, of Waterloo, this state, and a sister (now deceased), Mrs. Gertrude Lambert, of Iowa City. To Mr. and Mrs. Gillespie four children have been born, namely, James Bennett, born in 1905; Katherine A., 1907; Marion H., 1911, and Robert S., 1914. Mr. and Mrs. Gillespie are members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

JOSEPH MAYROSE.

Joseph Mayrose, one of the best-known and most substantial farmers of Plymouth county, trustee of Marion township and the owner of a fine farm of three hundred and forty-five acres in that township, of which he has been a resident since 1878, is a native of Germany, but has been a resident of this country since he was sixteen years of age. He was born on a farm in the grand duchy of Oldenburg on April 20, 1855, son of Christopher and Catherine (Schohenohle) Mayrose, both natives of that same grand duchy, farming people, who came to America in 1871 and proceeded on out to Iowa, settling in Delaware county, where they lived on a rented farm for several years, at the end of which time they came on over to Plymouth county and settled on a farm in Marion township, where both spent the remainder of their lives, influential pioneer citizens of that community. They were members of St. Mary's Catholic church at Remsen and their children were reared in that faith. There were three of these children, those besides the subject of this sketch, the first-born, being Caroline, who married Henry Little, a farmer of Marion township, and Leonard, a farmer in the neighboring county of Sioux.

Joseph Mayrose received a little schooling in his native land and when sixteen years of age, in 1871, a short time before his parents came to this country, sailed for America. Upon landing he proceeded to Cincinnati, but after a brief stay there proceeded on over the river into Kentucky, where he worked for a time as a farm hand, presently coming to Iowa and stopping at Dyersville, in Dubuque county, in the vicinity of which place he took further employment as a farm hand and remained there until his marriage, in the neighboring village of Petersburg, in 1878, after which he and his wife came to Plymouth county, where they ever since have made their home. Upon coming to this county, Mr. Mayrose rented a farm and on that placed lived for three years, at the end of which time he bought a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in section 10 of Marion township and there established his home. He at once began to improve and develop the place and as his affairs prospered bought other lands until now, in addition to his quarter section in the home place is the owner of one hundred and eighty-five acres in section 10 and is looked upon as one of the most progressive and substantial farmers in that part of the county. In addition to his general farming, Mr. Mayrose gives considerable attention to the raising of high-grade live stock and has done very well. Mr. Mayrose is a Democrat

and has ever given his thoughtful attention to the civic affairs of his home township, being the present trustee of the township, a position he has held for fifteen years. He also served for fifteen years as school director, four years as school treasurer and for some time as constable.

It was in 1878, at Petersburg, in Delaware county, this state, that Joseph Mayrose was united in marriage to Catherine Mormans, of Dubuque county, a daughter of Bernard Mormans and wife, and to this union eleven children have been born, all of whom are living, namely, Josephine, who married John Anthill, of Marion township; Catherine, who married Barney Bornhorst, of Remsen; J. B., who operates a garage at Remsen; Joseph C., a farmer, living in America township, and Frank, Edward, Albert, Adolph, Isadore, Mary and Anna, who are unmarried and are living at the old home place. These children received their schooling in the local schools and Adolph Mayrose supplemented his schooling in the public schools by a course in Trinity College at Sioux City. The Mayroses are members of the Catholic church at Oyens and are deeply interested in parish affairs. Mr. Mayrose has ever taken a warm interest in local church affairs and has helped to build the Catholic churches at Le Mars, Remsen and Oyens. The family is closely identified with the general social activities of the community, helpful in promoting all proper agencies for the advancement of the common welfare thereabout.

J. W. RANDALL.

J. W. Randall, a retired merchant at Kingsley, this county, former justice of the peace there, an honored veteran of the Civil War and a resident of this county for more than twenty-five years, is a native of Pennsylvania, born at Cochranon, in Crawford county, that state, August 7, 1838, son of George W. and Lydia (Randall) Randall, the former a native of New York state and the latter of Pennsylvania.

George W. Randall was born in the state of New York, son of Ichabod Randall and wife, the former a native of Rhode Island and a fuller in a woolen-mill. George W. Randall became a hotel man, and in 1846 moved from New York to Clayville, Ohio, and thence to Cumberland, in that same state, where he conducted a hotel and where his wife died in 1857. He later married again and about 1860 went to Ohio, where he settled on a farm, but a short time later moved to Oregon county, Missouri, where he

farmed until his retirement and removal to Alton, the county seat of that county, where he died in December, 1887, at the age of seventy-three years. As noted above, George W. Randall was twice married. By his marriage to Lydia Randall, who was a daughter of John Randall and wife, who moved from Erie county, Pennsylvania, to Muskingum county, Ohio, he was the father of nine children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the first-born, the others being Ann, Catherine, Nancy, George W., Hannah, Ichabod, Pauline and Frank. By his second wife, Elizabeth, he was the father of three children, Edwin, Valandingham and Alexandria.

J. W. Randall was but a child when his parents moved to Cumberland, Ohio, and he received his schooling in the schools of that city, growing up an assistant to his father in the management of the hotel. In the fall of 1860 he married and on October 9, 1861, enlisted for service during the Civil War as a private in Company A, Seventy-third Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, with which command he served until it was mustered out on July 26, 1865, the war then being at an end. Mr. Randall's regiment saw service in General Sherman's army and participated in the campaign of that army through Georgia and on from Atlanta to the sea and thence to Washington, Mr. Randall thus having participated in the Grand Review of the army at Washington at the close of the war. Upon the completion of his military service Mr. Randall returned home and shortly afterward moved to Cole county, Illinois, where he settled on a farm and where he remained for three years, at the end of which time he moved to the Territory of Dakota and there took a homestead in the vicinity of Yankton, developed the same and there made his home for more than twenty-three years, at the end of which time, twenty-five years ago, he retired from the farm and moved to Kingsley, this county, where he engaged in the grocery business, and was thus engaged for four or five years, since which time he has been living practically retired at his pleasant home in that city. Mr. Randall is a Republican and has served the public in various elective capacities, having served for six years as township assessor, for four years as constable and for two years as a justice of the peace. Fraternally, he is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, with which organization he has been associated for many years and in the affairs of which he takes a warm interest.

It was on October 4, 1860, that J. W. Randall was united in marriage to Sarah C. Kennard, who was born on a farm in the vicinity of Rushville, Ohio, December 14, 1839, daughter of John and Sarah (Johnson) Ken-

nard, natives of Pennsylvania, who had settled on a farm near Rushville, Ohio, and to this union eight children have been born, namely: Sarah Lydia, who married W. H. Hackenthorn; Mattie, who married A. Park; Walter, who is living at Dickenson, North Dakota; Mary, who was graduated from the high school at Pierre, South Dakota, and married E. D. Kent; George, who is living at Vermilion, South Dakota; Catherine, who married O. C. Moore, of Deuel county, South Dakota; Joseph, who is a farmer, living near Staples, Minnesota, and William, also a farmer near Staples. Mr. and Mrs. Randall celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in 1910 and the occasion was made one of much felicitation on the part of their many friends in and about Kingsley. Mr. and Mrs. Randall are earnest members of the Methodist Episcopal church and for many years have taken an active interest in the various beneficences of the same, as well as in all community good works, helpful in promoting all worthy causes hereabout.

JOHN LUDWIG.

The wise farmer, during his spare moments and in the long winter months, looks after the repairs on his place, one by one, until everything is in ship-shape, for he deems it unnecessary and unwise to let such things rob him of the pleasures of farm life, as they not infrequently do if not looked after in time. John Ludwig, of Remsen township, believes in keeping his fences, gates, outbuildings, and the like, in good repair, and hence he is spared a great deal of annoyance.

John Ludwig was born in the grand duchy of Luxemburg, January 25, 1879, a son of Theodore and Margaret (Hennes) Ludwig, both natives of Luxemburg, from which country they came with their family to the United States in 1894, locating at Dyersville, Iowa, where the father rented land twelve years, then moved to Remsen and retired, dying there on December 2, 1912, at the age of seventy-six years. His wife died in 1913, at the age of sixty-eight. To these parents twelve children were born, namely: Peter, who is farming in Dubuque county, Iowa; Cornelius, who is a farmer and stockman at Remsen; John, the subject of this sketch; J. P., a farmer and stockman in Remsen township; Martin, who is farming in Meadow township; Frank, who lives on a farm two miles north of Oyens; Michael, who is farming in Marion township; Mrs. Margaret Beelner, who

died in 1912; Mrs. Barbara Bonert, who lives in Dubuque county, Iowa; Mrs. Amy Less, who lives in Dubuque county; Mrs. Catherine Tentinger, who lives in Marion township, this county, and Mrs. Mary Tentinger, who lives in Fredonia township.

John Ludwig spent his boyhood in Luxemburg, where he attended school. He was about fifteen years of age when he came to America with his parents, and he remained with them until he was twenty-one years old, when he began working on his own account. A year later he bought eighty acres in Remsen township, which he farmed two years. On September 6, 1904, he married Rosa Bohnenkamp, who was born in Petersburg, Iowa, a daughter of Frank J. and Margaret (Mullenkamp) Bohnenkamp. The father was born in Westphalia, Germany, but came to America when four years old with his parents, the family locating in Dubuque county, Iowa. His wife was born in Petersburg, Iowa, where they were married. Mr. Bohnenkamp followed the carpenter's trade there for some time, coming to Plymouth county in 1884. He located in the village of Remsen, where he engaged in the implement business two years, then bought a farm in Remsen township, which he operated until his death, May 15, 1910. His widow is still living on the homestead. Eleven children were born to these parents, those besides Mrs. Ludwig being as follow: Mary, who married J. P. Ludwig; John, who lives in Alexandria, South Dakota; Anna, who is at home; Frank, who is at home; Henry, who is farming in Remsen township; Joseph, who is at home; Margaret, who married Joe Ahrens; Francis and Cecelia (twins), at home, and Elnora, at home. Seven children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Ludwig, namely: Elnora, Evelyn, Rosanna, Callista, Lucile, Mildred, Frank.

After his marriage John Ludwig located on a rented farm of one hundred and sixty acres, and later rented two hundred and forty acres in Marion township, which he operated for nine years; then bought his present farm of two hundred acres in Remsen township, and there he has carried on general farming and stock raising quite successfully. Mr. Ludwig has remodeled the buildings, installed a water-works system and now has a modern home. He has also built an up-to-date hog house, machine shed, chicken house, a one-hundred-and-sixty-ton silo, installed a large pair of stock scales and erected hogtight fences, spending about five thousand dollars in improvements. He makes a specialty of raising Shorthorn cattle and Percheron horses.

Mr. Ludwig is a Democrat, but has never aspired to office. He belongs

to St. Mary's Catholic church at Remsen, the Catholic Order of Foresters and the Luxemburger Bunderbund of America. Mr. Ludwig has been very successful in a business way. He had but one hundred and fifty dollars when he bought his present farm and is now accounted one of the leading young farmers of the county.

NIC WEILER.

Nic Weiler, one of the best-known young farmers in Marion township, this county, was born on the farm in that township on which he now lives and has lived there all his life. He was born on June 2, 1885, son of Dominic and Mary (Caspar) Weiler, both natives of Germany, the former of whom spent his last days there and the latter of whom is now living in Remsen.

Dominic Weiler came to the United States in the days of his early manhood and at once proceeded to the Northwest, locating at Caledonia, in Houston county, Minnesota, where he worked as a farm hand until he came to Iowa in the seventies and bought a farm of eighty acres in Marion township, this county, where he established his home. He later bought an adjoining tract, which gave him a farm of one hundred and eighty acres, which he brought to an excellent state of cultivation and improved in admirable shape, and there he spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring on February 14, 1910. Dominic Weiler was a good citizen and did his share toward advancing the interests of his home community, having served for some time as school director and as supervisor of roads in his district. To him and his wife were born eleven children, of whom nine are still living, those besides the subject of this sketch being as follow: Margaret, who married John Miller; Kate, who married Peter Thill; Mary, who married William Miller; Anna, who married Nick Nillis; Josephine, who married John Weiler, and John, Susan and Dominic, who are unmarried.

Nic Weiler grew to manhood on the farm on which he was born, receiving his schooling in the district school of his home neighborhood and in the Catholic parochial school at Remsen, and has always lived on the home place. After his father's death he farmed for his mother for two years, at the end of which time she moved to Remsen, and he has since been in charge of the place, very successfully farming two hundred and thirty acres. In addition to his general farming Mr. Weiler gives consid-

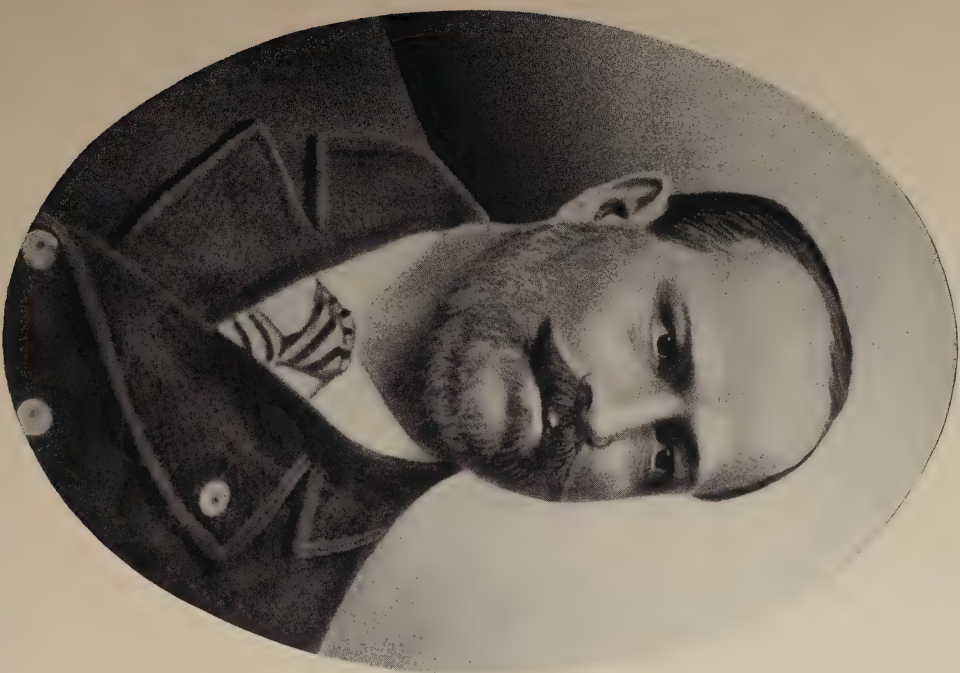
erable attention to the raising of live stock, keeping about one hundred head of hogs, besides graded cattle and eight head of fine work horses. Mr. Weiler is a Democrat and gives a good citizen's attention to local political affairs, but has not been a seeker after public office.

On June 4, 1913, Nic Weiler was united in marriage to Mary Ruba, who also was born in this county, daughter of Barthel and Mary Ruba, early settlers of Plymouth county, further mention of whom is made in a biographical sketch relating to Barthel Ruba, presented elsewhere in this volume, and to this union one child has been born, a daughter, Armella. Mr. and Mrs. Weiler are members of the Catholic church at Remsen and take a proper interest in parish affairs, as well as in the general social activities of the community in which they live, helpful in promoting all good causes thereabout.

JOHN PETER WIES.

The most enduring monument that can be erected to the memory of a loved one is not made of marble or granite, for time, alas! crumbles these away. Naught endures save the written record, the page glowing with the narratives of the noble life and the kindly deed. Thus is given herewith a brief resume of the career of the late John Peter Wies, for many years a well-known citizen of Plymouth county.

John Peter Wies was born on December 7, 1864, in Luxemburg, a son of Jacob and Anna Wies, who lived and died on a farm in that county. John P. Wies was the only member of the family to come to America. He grew up in Luxemburg and was educated in the common schools there. He lived at home until he was twenty-three years old, then emigrated to the New World, locating in Le Mars, Iowa. On August 17, 1892, he married Louise Kaiser, a native of Minnesota and a daughter of Nicholas and Mary (Neisius) Kaiser, who came to America and settled in Wisconsin, where they were married later moving to Minnesota, then to Iowa, buying a farm near Merrill; later moving to a farm just east of Le Mars, where they lived until in October, 1895, when they moved to Cook county, Texas. Mr. Kaiser was a farmer most of his life, but also engaged in the implement business a number of years. His death occurred on September 11, 1916, in Texas. His family consisted of seven children, namely: J. F., who lives at Oyens, this county; Louise, widow of the subject of this review;



MR. AND MRS. JOHN P. WILES



Mary, who married J. W. Meurer and lives in Texas; Anna, now deceased, who was the wife of Henry Walterschied, of San Antonio, Texas; Magdalena, who married Adolph Riventisch, of San Antonio, Texas; Frank A., who lives in Remsen, and Susie, who is the wife of Louis Bernauer, of Muenster, Texas.

Four children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Wies, namely: Anna, the wife of Henry Kemp, farmer of Plymouth county; Angeline N., John Peter, Jr., and Adaline S., who is at home with their mother and attending school in Remsen, the son being now in high school.

Mr. Wies was engaged in the saloon business in Le Mars from 1890 to 1892, then moved to Remsen, where he resided until two years prior to his death, which occurred on December 24, 1909. He also bought and sold land and was the owner of a number of fine horses and dealt in horses for a number of years. He built the present attractive and modern family home at Remsen in 1907. Politically, he was a Republican. He was a member of St. Mary's Catholic church and active in the work of the same. His family are also members of that parish.

FRANK J. BOHNENKAMP.

The late Frank J. Bohnenkamp, for years one of Remsen township's most substantial citizens, was born in Muenster, Germany, on October 14, 1854, and died at his home in this county on May 17, 1910. He came with his parents, Herman and Antoinette Bohnenkamp, to this country in 1857, he then being under three years of age. On their arrival in the United States his parents came directly to Iowa, and located in Delaware county, where the father engaged in farming until the time of his death. Mr. and Mrs. Bohnenkamp were the parents of the following children: William, Joseph, Antoinette, John, Elizabeth, Frank J., Mary, Anna, Josephine and Dina. William is now deceased; Joseph lives in Dubuque, Iowa; John, who was a resident of Breda, Iowa, died, September 15, 1916; Elizabeth lives in Dubuque; Antoinette resides in New Vienna, Iowa; Mary is the wife of Mr. Lammers, of Remsen; Anna lives in North Dakota; Josephine is deceased and Dina is a nun.

Frank J. Bohnenkamp received his education in the public schools of Delaware county and grew to manhood on the home farm. As a young

man he learned the carpenter trade, at which he worked for many years. On September 10, 1880, he was united in marriage to Margaret Mullenkamp, of Petersburg, Iowa, who was born in 1857, the daughter of Anton and Mary (Oswald) Mullenkamp, natives of Westphalia, Germany, where they were married. They continued to live in the land of their nativity until 1854, when they came to America, locating in Delaware county, Iowa, where the father engaged in general farming until the time of his death in 1894. The mother died at the age of sixty-seven years. They were the parents of the following children: Margaret, who married Mr. Bohnenkamp; William, of Remsen; Herman, now deceased; Mary, the wife of Frank Stundebek, of Remsen; Elizabeth, who lives at Randall, Iowa, and Anna, also a resident of Randall. Mr. and Mrs. Mullenkamp were devout members of the Catholic church and took much interest in church work.

To Frank J. and Margaret (Mullenkamp) Bohnenkamp have been born the following children: Mary, who is the wife of J. P. Ludwig, of Remsen; Rosa, the wife of John Ludwig, of Remsen township; John, who is engaged in farming near Alexandria, South Dakota, and who married Elizabeth Kramer; Anna, who is unmarried and keeps house for her brother, Henry; Frank, who is farming the home place; Henry, who is engaged in farming in Remsen township; Joe, who is at home; Margaret, the wife of Joe Ahrens, of Remsen township; Francis and Cecelia (twins), who are now attending the St. Angela Institute at Carroll, Iowa, and Elenora, at home. The children of the family all received their early educational training in the public schools and in the Catholic parochial school at Remsen.

In 1884 Frank J. Bohnenkamp located at Remsen, where he engaged in the implement business; but after one year he sold the business and purchased a farm of one hundred and sixty acres, in section 16 of Remsen township, to which he later added eighteen acres in section 21. This farm he developed and improved and there he engaged in general farming and stock raising until his death. Mr. Bohnenkamp was quite successful and had one of the ideal farms of the community. He was a thorough believer in intensive farming and in the keeping of good stock, and was interested in the breeding of Shorthorn cattle, Poland China hogs and Percheron horses. His farm was under a high state of cultivation and his stock was considered among the best in the township. Shortly after locating on the farm he built a new house, at that time regarded as one of the best in that sec-

tion of the country. He also built a barn, sixty by eighty feet, with a combined corn crib and hog house, forty by twenty feet, in addition to another corn crib that was eight by forty-eight feet.

Frank J. Bohnenkamp was an active member of the Catholic church, as is his widow, and was prominent in the social and religious life of the community. Politically, he was identified with the Democrat party and took an active interest in local affairs. He was a man of ability and of sound judgment, and his advice was often sought on matters of public concern. He was a stockholder in the Remsen Lumber Company and in the Farmer's Elevator Company at Remsen. For a number of years Mr. Bohnenkamp was assessor of his township and was for many years a director of his local school district. He took much interest in young men who were just starting in life, and there are many in this county who can testify to the benefits received from his assistance and advice.

JOHN BLODGET.

If there was ever a true unalloyed Christian citizen who became a member of the pioneer band in Plymouth county, it was the late Deacon John Blodget, who became a prominent factor in the life of Le Mars as soon as the place had been platted. He was born in Bucksport, Maine, in 1827 and died in Independence, Iowa, in 1898. He married, in 1852, Sarah Case. He conducted a store in Maine until 1868, when he, with O. B. Foster, came to Iowa and settled in Plymouth county, near the present site of Le Mars, getting settled in 1869. As soon as the town was platted they opened a general store, where later the Ashwood creamery stood. Mr. Blodget was made the first postmaster. After the construction of the railroad he removed his business to the corner of Main and Sixth streets, where the Hentges business block now stands. There Mr. Blodget and Frank Flint erected a brick building, known later as Kent's block. Subsequently Mr. Blodget sold to Mr. Flint and engaged in the real-estate business with J. R. Mitchell and later became associated, in the same line, with William Wernli. His wife died in 1871 and was buried on the homestead east of town, but later the remains were interred in the city cemetery. Mr. Blodget was one of the organizers of the Congregational church at Le Mars and served as a deacon the remainder of his life.

HON. JOHN I. BLAIR.

The great railroad king of his day and generation, John I. Blair, of Blairstown, New Jersey, was president of several Iowa pioneer railroad companies, and was closely connected with the construction of the old Dubuque & Sioux City (now the Illinois Central railroad), which runs through Plymouth county, and by reason of his pioneer association with the towns and cities of this county through which the road runs and which places he caused to be laid out and platted in the early seventies, such as James, Hinton, Merrill, Le Mars and Remsen, it is desired by his old friends and associates that a sketch of his eventful and successful life appear in this work.

The Blair family is of Scotch extraction, and the genealogy shows that for six hundred years the family has been a prominent one. In America the family was early represented in the educational and religious activities of the country. They were of sturdy Presbyterian stock and were ardent advocates and defenders of the principles of freedom and true liberty. The Blairs emigrated from Scotland to America about 1720. Rev. John Blair and Rev. Samuel Blair were identified with the early board of trustees of what is now Princeton University.

Hon. John I. Blair was born on the banks of the Delaware river near Belvidere, New Jersey, August 22, 1802. His great-grandfather was Samuel Blair and his grandfather, who emigrated to this country about 1735, was John Blair. Samuel Blair married into the family of Doctor Shippen of Philadelphia, who owned a large tract of land in Warren county, New Jersey, including the mineral lands at Oxford Furnace. Near this tract John Blair located and passed his life. He was a man of force and character and engaged somewhat in the practice of law, in preaching, taught school and became the owner of much land in the neighborhood of his residence. He owned the "Beaver Brook" property of about five hundred acres, near Hope, lived on Scott's Mountain, near Oxford Furnace, and married Mary Kline, of Greenwich, New Jersey, by whom were born five sons, John, Samuel, James, William and Robert. John Blair, Sr., died in 1798, aged eighty-four years.

James Blair, the father of the Hon. John I. Blair, was born at Oxford, New Jersey, August 5, 1769. He passed his life in tilling the soil, living principally on the "Beaver Brook" property, where he owned a large tract of land and where he died on August 5, 1816. His wife was Rachel,

daughter of John Insley, of Greenwich county, New Jersey, who bore him seven sons and three daughters, Samuel, William, John I., Robert, James, Jacob M., David B., Mary, Catherine and Elizabeth. Mrs. Blair died on August 23, 1857.

The life of John I. Blair is a striking example of how many and great things can be accomplished by the youth of this country, even in the absence of academic or collegiate instruction, by the exercise of industry, perseverance and integrity in business life. Born on a farm in Warren county, his life until the age of eleven years consisted of the ordinary routine of a farmer boy's experience; working on the farm in the summer season and drinking in knowledge at the neighborhood district school in the colder months. His school training ended at the age of eleven, at which period he entered the store of his cousin, Judge Blair, at Hope, New Jersey, to learn the mercantile business. He remained there a number of years, at the end of which time, owing to the demise of his father, he returned home for a time and assisted on the paternal farm. In a short time he returned to mercantile life in Hope, where he remained until about 1821. During this time he passed one year in the store of Squire James De Will, where he made himself especially useful and where, being brought into close contact with the forms and procedures of law, the method of collecting debts, compromising suits and the drawing of legal papers, he derived much practical knowledge of business life. At the age of only nineteen he located at Blairstown, New Jersey, then known as "Gravel Hill." There he established a general country store. After two years of partnership with his cousin he conducted the business alone, and that was before he had become of lawful age. There he remained forty years, attending closely to business and constantly extending his trade. During this time he had stores also at Marksboro, Paulina, Huntsville and Johnsonsburg, New Jersey, in some of which concerns his brothers, James and Robert, and his brothers-in-law, who were all successful merchants, were his partners.

During this long period of mercantile life Mr. Blair was constantly extending his business connections and unconsciously laying a foundation for his future extensive and far-reaching operations. He was largely interested in flour-mills, in the manufacture of cotton and in the general commerce of the country around Blairstown, being extensively engaged in wholesale trade, and was postmaster at Blairstown for nearly forty years.

In October, 1846, John I. Blair, with others, organized the Lackawanna Coal & Iron company, at Scranton, Pennsylvania. Of these mills Mr. Blair

was one of the proprietors, among the others being the Scranton brothers, William E. Dodge, Anson G. Phelps, Rosswell Spargue and L. L. Sturgess. As a railroad man Mr. Blair became very successful and was instrumental in the construction of the following railroads: Delaware, Lackawanna & Western; Warren railroad and Vass Gap tunnel; the Morris & Essex railroad; Warren, Essex and Blairstown road; the Chicago & Northwestern system, from Chicago to the Missouri river; the Fremont & Elkhorn lines; the Dubuque & Sioux City lines; was also one of the directors of the original Union Pacific road, a member of the finance committee of the same; constructed the first line across Iowa soil from Clinton to Council Bluffs, and worked more than ten thousand men in this undertaking. He also had large banking interests, with stock in the First National Bank of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, in the Scranton Savings Bank and others. His personal donations in the cause of education and religion were generous, including the sum of seventy-five thousand dollars to the College of New Jersey, at Princeton; fifty thousand dollars to the Lafayette College, at Easton, Pennsylvania, and liberal donations to the Blairstown Academy. Not alone to the church of his choice—the Presbyterian—but to all other denominations he gave liberally. Politically, Mr. Blair was a supporter of the Republican party, and was a candidate for governor of New Jersey in 1868, but was defeated. When he paid the expenses of his campaign, which footed to sixty thousand dollars, he gave his check for the amount, saying, "Now I am done."

There are numerous towns and cities named for Mr. Blair and for members of his family, including Blairstown, New Jersey; Blairstown, Iowa; Blair, Nebraska; Marcus, Cherokee county, Iowa, named for his son, Marcus L. Blair, and Aurelia, Cherokee county, named in honor of his daughter, Aurelia A. At one time Mr. Blair was director in seventeen railroads and president of three roads. Verily, he built his own monument of ties and rails, diverging to all points of the country, which landmarks shall ever be a reminder of the great work accomplished by this sturdy Scotch-American.

In 1827 Mr. Blair married Ann Locke, of New Jersey, by whom the following children were born: De Witt Clinton, Marcus L., Emma E., wife of Charles Scribner, of publishing fame, and Aurelia A., who married C. G. Mitchell, of New York.

It will be remembered that John I. Blair constructed the present Illinois Central railroad through this county, and platted and named the station

points on the same. The manner in which he named such towns has already been noted, except that of Le Mars, which he, with others, including Dr. William Remsen Smith, of Sioux City, and the wives of several gentlemen present, all being associated in one way or another with the railroad, named in a novel manner. The ladies were permitted to create a new name by taking one letter in each of their names, which, when properly set, made the word L-E-M-A-R-S. This arrangement was suggested to Mr. Blair and he at once approved of it and entered it on his maps.

JOHN A. SAYER.

It is not everyone who makes a success in the newspaper field, for it requires a peculiar combination of characteristics possessed by a comparatively few; but success depends, as in nearly all lines of endeavor, more on persistent, hard work than anything else. One of the workers in this vocation in Plymouth county is John A. Sayer, proprietor of the *Struble Journal*, in the village of Struble.

John A. Sayer was born in Dane county, Wisconsin, July 24, 1872, a son of Matthew and Margaret Sayer, the former a native of England and the latter of Germany. Matthew Sayer came to the United States when a young man and located in Wisconsin. He engaged in farming in Dane county until 1881, when he moved to Floyd county, Iowa, where he continued farming until old age made it necessary for him to retire. He is still living at the unusual age of ninety-three years. His wife is eighty-nine years old. Six children were born to these parents, John A. being the only one living in Plymouth county, the others being Matthew, Peter, Mrs. Ann Kauss, Mrs. Johanna Fix and Mrs. Margaret Kuhlman.

The subject of this sketch grew up on the home farm in Floyd county and received his education in the common schools of that county and in the State University at Sioux Falls, South Dakota. He began life for himself as a teacher, which work he followed in O'Brien, Sioux and Lyon counties for a period of twelve years, during which period his services were in wide demand. Although he was successful as an educator, he finally abandoned the school room and entered the employ of the F. M. Slagle Lumber Company, at Sheldon, Iowa. In a short time he was appointed manager of the firm's yards at Struble, this county, which position he retained for a period of eight years, giving eminent satisfaction to the company. He was

then appointed postmaster at Struble, which office he held for eight years to the satisfaction of all concerned. During this period Mr. Sayer bought the *Struble Journal*, which he has ever since published, and which he has made one of the influential country newspapers in this section of the state.

On June 4, 1898, at Hull, Iowa, John A. Sayer was married to Catherine L. Knewel, a daughter of John and Maria (Leich) Knewel, and to this union one child has been born, Leona, whose death occurred on February 27, 1906. Mr. and Mrs. Sayer are members of the Catholic church. Politically, Mr. Sayer is a Republican. Fraternally, he is a member of the Knights of Columbus and of the Modern Woodmen of America.

FRANK A. KUNKEL.

Frank A. Kunkel, one of the best-known and most progressive farmers of Marion township, this county, and owner of a fine farm of three hundred and twenty acres in that township, is a native son of Iowa and has lived in this state all his life. He was born on a farm in Dubuque county on September 23, 1870, son of Peter and Christina (Diggman) Kunkel, both natives of Germany, the former of whom spent his last days in Le Mars, this county, and the latter of whom is still living there.

Peter Kunkel was but a child when his parents moved from their native Bavaria and came to this country, settling in Grant county, Wisconsin, where he grew to manhood on a pioneer farm and where he married Christina Diggman, who was but three years of age when her parents, Valentine and Margaret Diggman, came to this country from Germany, also settling in Grant county, Wisconsin, where they spent the remainder of their lives. The Kunkels later came to Iowa and settled in Dubuque county, where the parents of Peter Kunkel spent their last days. Peter Kunkel farmed in Dubuque county for a time and then moved with his family back to Grant county, Wisconsin, and lived there fourteen years, at the end of which time, in 1882, they came to Plymouth county and settled on a farm in America township, this county, about three miles east of Le Mars. He became the owner of four hundred acres of excellent land there and very successfully farmed the same for several years, at the end of which time he retired from the active labors of the farm and moved to Le Mars, where his death occurred in the spring of 1911, he then being seventy-two years of age. He was a Democrat, but was not an aspirant for public office. His widow

is still living at Le Mars. She is a member of St. Joseph's Catholic church in that city, as was her husband, and their children were reared in the faith of that church. There were nine of these children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the first-born, the others being as follows: Mary, who married Henry Lanness and is living at Ada, Minnesota; Kate, who married Nicholas Gergon and is living at Kearney, Nebraska; Joseph, who is living at Le Mars; John, a farmer, living near Mitchell, South Dakota; Valentine, a farmer, living near Adrian, Minnesota; Leo and Tony, also living near Adrian, and Anna, who married Theodore Kass and lives on a farm east of Remsen, in this county.

Frank A. Kunkel was about twelve years old when he came with his parents from Dubuque county to Plymouth county in 1882 and he grew to manhood on the home farm in America township, a valuable assistant to his father in the labors of developing and improving the same, and remained at home until his marriage in January, 1894, when he located on a part of the home place, seven years later buying an eighty-acre tract from his father, as well as a farm north of Le Mars, selling the same a year later and buying a farm southeast of Le Mars, where he made his home for five years, at the end of which time he bought the old Michael Madden place of three hundred and twenty acres in Marion township, where he is now living and where he and his family are very pleasantly and very comfortably situated. Since taking possession of that place Mr. Kunkel has remodeled the house, has erected new and substantial farm buildings and has made other valuable improvements on the place. In addition to his general farming he gives considerable attention to the raising of high-grade live stock, feeding about one hundred and twenty-five head of hogs annually. He has a herd of about forty head of Hereford cattle, gives considerable attention to dairying, and has a fine lot of draft horses for farm uses. He also is the owner of a threshing-rig and his farm is regarded as one of the best-kept places in that part of the county. Mr. Kunkel is a Democrat and has ever given close attention to local civic affairs. For five years he has been clerk of his school district and in other ways has given of his time and services to the public.

It was on January 30, 1894, that Frank A. Kunkel was united in marriage to Clara Becker, who was born in this county, daughter of John Becker and wife, of Le Mars, further mention of whom is made in a biographical sketch relating to Mr. Becker, presented elsewhere in this volume, and to this union nine children have been born, namely: Matilda C., born on

March 24, 1895; Arthur P., December 21, 1897; Edward J., May 1, 1900; Agnes J., April 1, 1903; Felix, July 30, 1905; Caroline, July 13, 1908; Dorothy, February 6, 1911; Mildred, December 21, 1914, and Roma, April 26, 1916. The Kunkels are members of St. Catharine's Catholic church at Oyens and take a proper interest in parish affairs, as well as in the general social activities of the community in which they live.

J. HENRY MORF.

Among the pioneers who helped to lay the foundation of this county was J. H. Morf, who was the first notary public in Plymouth county. He was born in 1832 in Nanikon, Canton Zurich, Switzerland, and was reared on a farm and educated in the schools of his native parish, until he was eighteen years of age, when he went to the city of Zurich to finish his education. In 1854 he emigrated to America and after two years' residence in southwestern Wisconsin was employed as a clerk in a store in Chicago. He then went to St. Louis, thence to St. Joseph, and thence to Omaha, from which city he came to Iowa, arriving in Sioux City on June 17, 1860. There he worked at anything he might turn his hand to. In October, 1861, he enlisted in Capt. A. J. Miliard's Independent Company, which was later attached to the Seventh Iowa Cavalry as Company I, and with this command he served for three years, stationed on the northwestern frontier, holding the rank of sergeant. On his return to Sioux City he opened a store and in the fall of 1867 moved his business to Melbourne, Plymouth county, where he was appointed the first postmaster. In the year last named he was elected treasurer of this county, which position he filled for six years. During the last four years of this period he also held the office of recorder. In 1869 he moved to Plymouth Center, where he was also the first postmaster. This was one mile above the present city of Merrill. There he erected a large residence, which was burned through a defective chimney in December, 1873. The following spring he moved to Merrill, where he had built a grain elevator, and there he carried on the grain and coal business till the autumn of 1880, when he sold and retired to his large farm west of Merrill, later becoming the owner of eleven hundred acres of land in Plymouth county. In 1888 he removed to Seattle, Washington, where he made investments and remained.

Mr. Morf was a member of the Evangelical church and, politically,

was a Republican. He was a charter member of Floyd Valley Lodge, No. 208, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, at Melbourne, and was the first noble grand of that lodge. He also was a charter member of the Masonic lodge at Le Mars. He was postmaster at Merrill and was a notary public. He married and reared a family of six children.

H. A. AHLERS.

H. A. Ahlers, one of Plymouth county's most substantial citizens, former chairman of the county board of supervisors, former trustee of Elgin township and the proprietor of a fine farm in that township, where he makes his home, is a native son of Iowa and has lived in this state all his life. He was born on a pioneer farm in Dubuque county, February 7, 1860, son of Henry and Euphemia Ahlers, both of whom were born in Germany, the former of whom was but seven years of age when he came to this country with his parents and the latter of whom was five years of age when she came over with her parents, both families locating at Cincinnati, Ohio. When he was eighteen years of age Henry Ahlers came with his parents to Iowa, in 1848, the family settling on a farm in Dubuque county, among the earliest residents of that county. There he married, his wife's parents also having settled in that county, and there he farmed, having meanwhile taken a homestead in Dubuque county, until 1890, when he sold his place there and moved over to this part of the state, settling on a farm in the Granville neighborhood in Sioux county, where he spent the rest of his life. His wife died in Dubuque county in 1872. They were the parents of eight children, six of whom are now living, but of whom the subject of this sketch is the only one living in Plymouth county, the others being as follow: Mrs. Theresa Schwartz, William, John and Herman, all of Sioux county, and Mrs. Anna Lewis, of Adrian, Minnesota.

H. A. Ahlers was reared on the home farm in Dubuque county, receiving his schooling in the local schools in the neighborhood of his home, and remained there until he was twenty years of age, when, in 1880, he came to Plymouth county and located on the half section of land on which he is now living and where, after his marriage in 1887, he established his home. Upon taking possession of that place Mr. Ahlers was confronted with the task of breaking all but about seventy acres of the same and he lost little time in bringing the place under cultivation. He planted a grove,

which now is a very attractive feature of the landscape, and made substantial improvements to the place, also gradually increasing his land holdings until now he is the owner of seven hundred and sixty acres of fine land in this county, the greater part of which he is now renting out. Mr. Ahlers has spent about ten thousand dollars in improving his home place and has one of the best-kept farms in that part of the county. In addition to his general farming he has given considerable attention to the raising of live stock and has done very well in his operations. Mr. Ahlers is a Democrat, though of late years somewhat independent in his political views, and for twelve years served Plymouth county as a member of the board of county supervisors, three years of which time he was the chairman of the board. He also has served as township trustee of Elgin township, as a school director, as treasurer of the school district and in other public capacities, having done much in his official capacity to advance the best interests of his home township and of the county at large.

It was in 1887 that H. A. Ahlers was united in marriage to Minnie Lewis, who was born near Green Bay, in Brown county, Wisconsin, a daughter of Matthew Lewis and wife, and to this union seven children have been born, Elizabeth, Mary, Angeline, Olivia, Henry, Joseph and Andrew. Henry Ahlers married Kate Nuel. The Ahlers family are members of St. Joseph's Catholic church at Le Mars and take a proper interest in parish affairs, as well as in the general social activities of the community. Mr. Ahlers is a member of the St. Joseph Society and takes a warm interest in the affairs of that organization.

PETER THILL.

Peter Thill, a well-known and successful farmer of Remsen township, this county, was born in Jackson county, this state, July 1, 1873, the son of John and Kate Thill, natives of Luxemburg, who came to the United States and were married in this country. As a young man John Thill came to the United States and located in Jackson county, Iowa. For some years he rented land and engaged in farming in that county. He later came to Plymouth county, where he engaged in general farming and stock raising for a number of years, at the end of which time he moved to South Dakota, where some years later he was killed by a railroad train. He was the father of twelve children, three by his first wife and nine by his second

wife, Peter being the only one of these children residing in Plymouth county.

Peter Thill received his education in the public schools of Jackson county and in St. Mary's Catholic school at Remsen. He grew to manhood on the farm, where as a lad and young man he assisted his father with the work on the place, and remained at home until he was eighteen years of age, after which, for three years, he worked as a farm hand. He then married and for the next three years rented a farm. He then purchased the farm of one hundred and sixty acres, where he now lives, in Remsen township. This farm he has developed and improved and here he is engaged in general farming and stock raising, in which he has been quite successful, farming, in addition to his own place, an adjoining quarter section, all of which is under a high state of cultivation and well improved. Mr. Thill generally has about one hundred and twenty-five acres of corn and seventy-five acres of small grain. He feeds from seventy to eighty head of hogs and some fine cattle, and is recognized as one of the substantial and successful men of the township.

In 1897 Peter Thill was united in marriage to Kate Weiler, daughter of Dominic and Mary (Casper) Weiler, both natives of Germany. Dominic Weiler came to the United States as a young man and on his arrival in this country at once proceeded to the Northwest, locating at Caledonia, Houston county, Minnesota, where he worked as a farm hand until he came to Iowa, in the seventies. He located in Marion township, this county, and there he purchased a farm of eighty acres. There he was married and established his home. He developed and improved his farm until he had one of the most desirable places in the township. He later added forty acres to his original place and there he spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring on February 14, 1910. His widow later moved to Remsen, where she now resides.

Dominic Weiler was an excellent citizen and did his part toward advancing the interests of the community. He served for some time as a school director and as supervisor of roads of his district. To him and his wife were born eleven children, nine of whom are living, Nic, Margaret, Kate, Mary, Anna, Josephine, John, Susan and Dominic.

Peter and Kate (Weiler) Thill are the parents of seven children, John, Dominic, Aloysius, Mary, Josephine, Catherine and Edmund, all of whom are at home. Mr. and Mrs. Thill are devout members of the Catholic church at Remsen, and are prominent in the social and the religious life of

the community, where they are held in the highest regard by all who know them. They take much interest in the development of the moral, social and educational conditions of the community and are a most hospitable people. They devote their lives to their family and their friends, and their home is a very pleasant one, often the scene of happy gatherings. Their constant aim in life is to give to their children many of the advantages that were denied themselves. Mr. Thill is identified with the Democratic party and has always taken an active interest in the affairs of the township. While he does not aspire to office, he has been active in the general affairs of the community and is often consulted on matters relating to civic affairs.

P. A. SEAMAN.

The old Empire state has sent large numbers of her most courageous and enterprising citizens into the newer West to help redeem it from the wilderness and they have very materially assisted in transforming the domain of the redmen into thriving farming communities, establishing schools, churches, railroads and busy cities and towns during the past half or three-quarters of a century. One of this number is P. A. Seaman, cashier of the Bank of Struble, which institution he has helped make a pronounced success.

P. A. Seaman was born in the state of New York, March 24, 1851, a son of Andrew and Esther B. (Rogers) Seaman, the former a native of Canada and the latter of New York state. Andrew Seaman came to the United States when a young man, locating in the state of New York, where he married. He followed mercantile pursuits there until he came to Iowa, and located at Dubuque, where he continued his career as a merchant with his former success until 1875, in which year he turned his attention to farming, taking up a homestead of eighty acres in Union township, Plymouth county. This he developed and added to until he had a valuable and well-improved farm of three hundred and twenty acres, becoming quite successful as a general farmer and stock raiser. He finally removed to Deland, Florida, and died there. His family consisted of three children, those besides the subject of this sketch being Fowler A. and Lyman W.

P. A. Seaman received his education in the schools of Dubuque, where he located with his parents when a boy, and he grew to manhood in that city. He came with his parents to Plymouth county in 1870 and home-

steaded eighty acres in Union township, which he farmed for six years, at the end of which time he sold out and located in Le Mars. There he worked in the abstract office of I. S. Struble for a period of nine years and then took a position with the First National Bank of Le Mars, with which institution he remained for eleven years. He gave eminent satisfaction in both these responsible positions, being alert, prompt and courteous. In 1901 Mr. Seaman located in the village of Struble, taking a position as cashier of the bank there, which position he has since held, with satisfaction to the owner and the patrons of the bank.

In Le Mars, in 1885, P. A. Seaman was married to Mrs. Martha B. (Stebbins) Knapp, a daughter of A. C. and Melissa Stebbins. This union has been without issue. Mr. Seaman is a Republican and is serving as city treasurer, also as treasurer of the school board, which position he also held for a number of years while living in Le Mars. He belongs to the Christian Science church.

HERMAN J. GROETKEN.

Many of the native sons of Iowa have devoted their lives to the interests of agriculture in the great state in which they were born, among the number being Herman J. Groetken, a successful farmer of Elgin township, this county.

Herman J. Groetken was born in Jackson county, this state, March 19, 1872, the son of Herman and Catherine Groetken, natives of Germany and of Jackson county, Iowa, respectively. The elder Herman Groetken grew to manhood in the land of his birth and there worked as a farm hand. He later came to the United States and established himself in Jackson county, Iowa, where he presently was married. He purchased a farm of one hundred and sixty acres and engaged in general farming in that county until 1875, when he came to Plymouth county. Here he purchased a splendid farm of three hundred and sixty acres, one mile north of Le Mars, where he lived for thirty years and where he met with much success in his chosen work, that of general farming and stock raising. His wife died in 1891 and he some years later retired to Le Mars, where he died on June 1, 1915.

Herman Groetken was a poor young man when he came to the United States, but he was industrious and saving and he and his wife used their every effort to merit success and to establish for themselves and those dependent upon them a substantial home. They accomplished their highest

expectations and became recognized as among the well-to-do people of the county. They were devout members of the Catholic church and lived consistent Christian lives. They took great pleasure in their home life and with their children. There were ten of these children, seven of whom are now living, John, Herman J., Gerhard, Joseph, Henry, Susan and Kate.

Herman J. Groetken received his education in the Catholic schools of Le Mars and grew to manhood on the home farm, where he assisted his father with the many duties on the place until he was twenty-four years of age. He then purchased a farm near Perry, Oklahoma, where he engaged in farming for four years, at the end of which time, in 1911, he returned to Plymouth county and bought his present farm of two hundred and forty acres in Elgin township. He cultivates about eighty acres of corn and the same number of acres of small grain each year and annually raises one hundred head of hogs and a carload of cattle.

In 1897 Herman J. Groetken was united in marriage to Mary Monhoven, daughter of Anton Monhoven and wife, and to this union two children have been born, Joseph and Lucile. Mr. and Mrs. Groetken are members of the Catholic church at Le Mars and Mr. Groetken is an active member of the Knights of Columbus.

HUGH A. MAXWELL.

Hugh A. Maxwell, sheriff of Plymouth county, is a native of the Emerald Isle, but has been a resident of this country since he was two years of age. He was born in County Tyrone, Ireland, February 7, 1863, son of William and Mary Ann (Maxwell) Maxwell, both natives of Ireland, of Scottish parentage, whose last days were spent in this county. It was in 1865 that William Maxwell and his family came to the United States. They settled on Staten Island, where they made their home for five years, at the end of which time they came to Iowa and settled on a farm in the vicinity of Denison, in Crawford county, where they lived from 1869 to 1880, in which latter year they moved over to Plymouth county and established their home on a farm on section 10 of Elkhorn township. Both William Maxwell and his wife spent the remainder of their lives in this county, his death occurring in 1906 in Garfield township, and hers in March, 1915. They were the parents of twelve children, those still living, besides the subject of this sketch, being John, David and William, who live near Kingsley, this county, and James, who lives in North Dakota.

As noted above, Hugh A. Maxwell was but two years of age when he came to this country and he was but six years of age when the family moved from New York to this state. He grew to manhood on the home farm in Crawford county, receiving his schooling in the public schools of that neighborhood, and when the family came over to Plymouth county he continued as an assistant to his father in the labors of the home farm in Elkhorn township until he began farming on his own account, his operations along the latter line being carried on in Elkhorn and Union townships, in which latter township he is the owner of a fine farm of one hundred and twenty acres in section 6. For twenty years during the period of his activities as a farmer, Sheriff Maxwell operated a threshing rig during the seasons and gained a wide acquaintance throughout the county. He ever has been an ardent Republican and in 1912 was made the nominee of his party for the office of sheriff of Plymouth county, and was elected to that office by a majority of 1,201. His course in that office proved so highly acceptable to the people of the county that he was re-elected in 1914 by a majority of 2,090, the largest majority ever given a candidate for public office in Plymouth county up to that time, and in 1916 was again made his party's nominee for the office and was elected by a majority of 2,558.

On March 10, 1896, Hugh A. Maxwell was united in marriage to Isabel Watson, of Union township, this county, and to this union four children have been born, namely: William, born on January 4, 1898; Fern, January 5, 1903; Anna, February 21, 1906, and Clara, January 1, 1908. The Maxwells are attendants on the services of the Presbyterian church and Sheriff Maxwell, in his fraternal relations, is a member of the Masonic lodge at LeMars and of the Modern Woodmen.

WILLIAM NICHOLSON.

William Nicholson, one of the well-known farmers and stockmen of Elgin township, Plymouth county, was born in Annan, Dumfries-shire, Scotland, April 22, 1871, the son of Benjamin and Sarah (Birrell) Nicholson, both natives of that shire. Benjamin Nicholson was a man of distinction in his home country and was engaged in the lumber business. He was for forty years a director of the Glasgow & Southwestern Railroad and a joint director of the Midland Railroad, and was successful in his business ventures. In 1880 he came to Iowa and purchased three thou-

sand two hundred acres of valuable land around Le Mars and in Grant and Elgin townships, this county, as an investment for the use of his sons. Benjamin Nicholson died at his home in Scotland in 1913. His wife died in the year 1886. They were members of the Congregational church and were prominent in the social life of the community in which they lived. They were the parents of eight children, four of whom came to this country, those besides the subject of this sketch being J. B. and Benjamin, residents of Le Mars, and Richard, a farmer of Elgin township.

William Nicholson received his primary education in the public schools of Annan and finished his schooling at Morningside College, Edinburgh, which he attended for three years. In 1887 he came to Plymouth county, locating on a farm south of Le Mars, where he remained for five years. In September, 1892, he began the improvement of his magnificent farm in section 7 of Elgin township, and today has one of the most pleasant and substantial country homes in the county.

In December, 1894, in Elgin township, William Nicholson was united in marriage to Mollie Moran, who was born in Clayton county, Iowa, and to this union the following children have been born: Janet, Benjamin, Nell, Mollie, Mabel, Edith, William J., Dorothy, Richard, Donald and Evelyn, all of whom are at home save Janet, who married L. E. Becker, of Sioux county. The home life of the Nicholsons is ideal and they are held in the highest regard by their many friends throughout the county.

Mr. Nicholson's farm of four hundred and fifty acres, located in Plymouth and Sioux counties is all under high cultivation and well improved. He practices mixed farming, handles much stock and has for many years successfully engaged in the buying and feeding of cattle and hogs. He is identified with the Republican party and has always taken an active interest in local affairs, but has never aspired to office. He is a prominent member of the Elks lodge at Le Mars and takes much interest in the growth and success of that order. Mr. Nicholson's personality has won for him many friends throughout the county and his home is noted for its hospitality.

Richard Nicholson, a younger brother of William Nicholson, was born in Scotland in September, 1873, and received his education in the public schools of his native land and at Morningside College, Edinburgh, which he attended for six years, after which he was engaged as an engineer at Kil-marnock from 1889 to 1891. The next year he came to Iowa and for three years thereafter engaged in farming with his brothers, William and Benjamin in this county. In 1896 he engaged in farming for himself in section

25 of Washington township, but later sold the place and moved to his present farm in section 18 of Elgin township, where he is engaged in general farming and stock raising. For twenty-two years Mr. Nicholson has been a prominent member of the Prairie Club at Le Mars, and takes a warm interest in the affairs of the same.

PATRICK H. HUGHES.

Patrick H. Hughes, one of Remsen township's substantial farmers, now living practically retired from the active labors of the farm, a former trustee of that township and for ten years assessor of the township, is a native son of Iowa and has lived in this state all his life. He was born on a pioneer farm in Clinton county on April 28, 1863, son of Richard and Esther (O'Brien) Hughes, both natives of Ireland, born in County Kildare, who were married in Pennsylvania and whose last days were spent in Clinton county.

Richard Hughes came to the United States when a young man and was for a time located in Pennsylvania, later moving to La Salle county, Illinois, whence he presently came to this state and after a short residence in Iowa City bought a farm in Clinton county, this state, where he established his home and where he and his wife spent the remainder of their lives, his death occurring in 1901 and hers in 1907. They were members of the Catholic church and their children were reared in that faith. There were ten of these children, eight of whom are now living, but only three of whom are living in this county, those besides the subject of this sketch, the eldest, being Ellen, wife of Michael Kennedy, and Anna, wife of W. A. Kenney.

Patrick H. Hughes was reared on the parental farm in Clinton county, receiving his schooling in the local schools of that neighborhood, and remained at home until he was twenty-one years of age, when he came to Plymouth county and for two years was here employed as a farm hand. He then bought a team of horses and for a year thereafter was engaged in teaming, after which he bought a tract of eighty acres in Remsen township, paying for the same twenty-five dollars an acre, and began farming on his own account. He was successful from the very beginning of his farming operations and two years later bought an adjoining quarter section, to which farm he has added by later purchase until now he is the owner of a well-improved and profitably cultivated farm of three hundred and twenty acres

and is doing very well, of recent years living practically retired from the active labors of the farm. Mr. Hughes is a Democrat and ever since coming to Plymouth county has given his close attention to political affairs, having served the public in the capacity of township trustee, for ten years as township assessor and also as a member of the school board.

On November 29, 1911, Patrick H. Hughes was united in marriage to Leona Kieffer, a daughter of J. P. and Anna (Gladden) Kieffer, further mention of whom is made elsewhere in this volume, and to this union two children have been born, Donald, born on December 12, 1912, and Richard, March 10, 1914. Mr. and Mrs. Hughes are members of the Catholic church at Remsen and take a proper interest in parish affairs, as well as in the general social activities of the community in which they live, and are helpful in promoting all good works thereabout. Mr. Hughes is a member of the local council of the Knights of Columbus at Remsen and takes a warm interest in the affairs of the same.

JOHN F. C. HARNACK.

John F. C. Harnack, one of the substantial pioneer farmers of Remsen township, is a native of Germany, but has been a resident of Iowa since he was three years of age. He was born in the grand duchy of Mecklenburg on May 3, 1850, son of John and Mary Harnack, both of whom were born in that same section of Germany and who came to this country in 1853, entering by way of Quebec and proceeding on out to Iowa and settling in Clayton county, the trip occupying three months, nine weeks of which time was spent on the sailing vessel which brought them over.

Upon coming to this state the elder John Harnack for a time rented a farm in Clayton county and then bought a tract of land there, on which he established his home and where he spent the rest of his life. His widow later came to Plymouth county and her last days were spent in the homes of her children, who meanwhile had located in this county. John Harnack and wife were the parents of five children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the first-born, the others being Mary, Louis, Herman and Christina.

John F. C. Harnack, as noted above, was but three years of age when his parents came to Iowa. He grew to manhood on the home farm in

Clayton county, receiving his schooling in the local schools, and early learned the carpenter trade, at which he worked for thirteen years, ten years of which time he was engaged as a contracting carpenter. He then turned his attention to farming, about the time of his marriage, and was thus engaged in Clayton county for three years, or until 1883, when he came out to Plymouth county, where, five years before, he had bought a quarter section of land in Remsen township, paying eight dollars an acre for the same. He erected a small "shack" on the place, eight by sixteen feet in dimension, and there established his home and proceeded to break and improve his farm, to which he added by later purchase until now he is the owner of two hundred and forty acres of well-improved land in Remsen and Marion townships and is regarded as one of the most substantial farmers in his neighborhood. Mr. Harnack has made excellent improvements on his place and has a fine residence and good farm buildings. In addition to his general farming, Mr. Harnack pays considerable attention to stock raising and feeds about three carloads of hogs and a carload of cattle each year. Mr. Harnack is a Republican and gives a good citizen's attention to local civic affairs, but has not been a seeker after public office.

It was in 1879 that John F. C. Harnack was united in marriage to Elizabeth Greiman, daughter of William Greiman, and to this union seven children have been born, five of whom are still living, Anna, Bertha, Elizabeth, Henry and John, all of whom are at home. The Harnacks are members of the Evangelical Lutheran church at Remsen and take an earnest interest in the affairs of the same, as well as in the general social activities of the community, helpful in all neighborhood good works.

IRA PEARSON.

Among the early settlers of Hungerford township, this county, who has taken an important part in the transformation of the wild prairie into well-cultivated fields of growing grain and has caused beautiful and substantial buildings to be erected where once grew the tall prairie grass, and has made it possible to establish schools and churches where once were erected the Indian wigwams and where today the children play and the church people gather in council; where once the elk and the deer were wont to gambol in their unrestrained freedom, it is well to mention Ira Pearson,

who took such an important part in all this noble work. He was born in Sterling, Massachusetts, on October 1, 1833, and is the son of Joseph and Rebecca (Loring) Pearson.

Joseph Loring and wife, the maternal grandparents of the subject of this sketch, were natives of Massachusetts and were long residents of that state, farming people and prominent in the social and the religious life of their community. The paternal grandparents were Joseph Pearson and wife, who were also farmers of Massachusetts, and were there educated in the public schools, were married and there lived their lives. The grandfather was a soldier in the Revolutionary War and won distinction in the services that he rendered. Joseph Pearson was born in Massachusetts and was there educated in the public schools. He worked at various trades and did some farming. When the son, Ira, was twelve years of age the family moved to Wisconsin where they lived for six years, at the end of which time they moved to Jasper county, Iowa, where they established a home on a farm and where the father engaged in general farming and stock raising until the time of his death. After the death of her husband the widow moved to Chicago, Illinois, where she died in the year 1901. They were the parents of the following children: Lorenzo, Silas, Thressa, Clara, Ann, Maroe, Bartholomew, and Ira. Lorenzo, Silas, Thressa, Clara and Ann are deceased. Silas Pearson served three years in the Civil War and saw much active campaigning. Mr. and Mrs. Pearson were active members of the Universalist church and were prominent in the social life of the community in which they lived. The Pearsons are one of America's oldest families, an ancestor of Mr. Pearson having come over in the "Mayflower." Mr. Pearson has in his possession a currency certificate for thirty dollars, issued on September 26, 1778, a very rare piece of money.

Ira Pearson received his education in the schools of Massachusetts and after a residence of six years in Wisconsin he moved to the state of Illinois. On April 6, 1858, at Galena, Illinois, he was united in marriage to Harriet Garrett, who was born in Jo Daviess county, Illinois, on December 3, 1839, the daughter of Hiram and Sarah (Roberts) Garrett, farmers in that county, who had moved there from Cumberland, Kentucky, where they were born and reared. They were the parents of five children, Diana, Job, Caroline, Emeline and Harriet, all now deceased, with the exception of Mrs. Pearson. The father died at the age of seventy-one years and the mother's death occurred at the age of seventy-eight years.

To Ira and Harriet (Garrett) Pearson eight children have been born,

Loretta (deceased), Walter (deceased), Walter, Ira, Calvin, Clara (deceased), Hattie and Mabel (deceased). Walter Pearson lives at Hinton and is married to Loretta Watts. Ira Pearson, Jr., is farming the home place. Calvin Pearson is married to Elna Golusia and Hattie Pearson married J. P. Jenson and lives in Canada.

In 1870, shortly after coming to Iowa, Ira Pearson took a homestead of eighty acres in section 6 of Hungerford township, this county, and a timber claim, but the latter he gave up after a time, because he was unable to comply with the government conditions. He then took an additional homestead, which gave him one hundred and seventy acres of good land. This he developed and improved and in time became the owner of five hundred and thirty acres in Hungerford, Perry and Plymouth townships. Mr. Pearson continues to live on the homestead place and has a highly developed farm with good improvements, all of which he has made. His wife is a member of the United Brethren church, but she and the family attend the Methodist Episcopal church, owing to the convenience of its location. Mr. Pearson has always taken a keen interest in local affairs and was one of the organizers of the home school district. For twelve years he was trustee of his township and served as school director for a number of years.

VICTOR BOLLINGER.

The Swiss have ever been known as liberty-loving and independent people. As a rule the peoples of the world in mountainous countries are. The little republic among the Alps has furnished an admirable example to many of the larger nations of the earth, and her government and institutions might be emulated with profit by monarchies. Victor Bollinger, a substantial farmer of Hungerford township, this county, was born in Switzerland on October 8, 1876. He is a son of Victor and Madeline (Winistorfer) Bollinger. His grandparents lived and died in Switzerland, where his parents were also born, reared and were married and there the father, who owned the farm that Grandfather Bollinger owned, died in 1876, when only thirty-seven years of age. He had but two children, Bertha, who married Joseph Haftner, of Solothurn, Switzerland, and Victor, the subject of this sketch.

The junior Victor Bollinger spent his boyhood in his native land, where he attended school, first the rural schools and later a normal school. When

fifteen years old he came to the United States, coming direct, by way of New York, to Iowa, to join his cousin, Adolph Korrly, who had preceded him to this state and had settled in Plymouth county. He worked out as a farm hand for several years, then, about 1900, bought two hundred acres in Hungerford township, where he has since resided. He has been very successful as a general farmer and stock raiser and has made many important improvements on his place, erecting a modern dwelling in 1914, and in 1912 built a large barn. His place is well located two and one-half miles south of Hinton and is one of the choice farms of the community.

On April 7, 1893, Victor Bollinger was married to Minnie Marbet, a native of Switzerland, from which country she came to America when young. She is a daughter of Jacob Marbet, a pioneer farmer of Plymouth township, this county. The following children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Bollinger: Madeline, Walter, Alma, Mabel and Arthur. Mr. Bollinger is a Democrat and is now serving his second year as trustee of Hungerford township.

NICK THILL.

Nick Thill, a well-known farmer of Marion township, this county, is a native of Europe, but has been a resident of this county since he was twenty-four years of age. He was born on a farm in the grand duchy of Luxemburg on September 16, 1879, son of Nicholas and Anna Thill, who were the parents of six children, three of whom came to America, those besides the subject of this sketch being Peter, who is now living in Dubuque, this state, and John, now deceased.

Reared on a farm in his native Luxemburg, Nick Thill remained there until 1903, in which year he came to the United States and proceeded on out to Iowa, locating at Le Mars, in the vicinity of which city he worked as a farm hand for six years, at the end of which time he rented the farm of two hundred and forty acres in Marion township on which he is now living and where he is doing very well, in addition to his general farming giving considerable attention to the raising of live stock, feeding eighty or a hundred head of hogs annually.

In 1915 Nick Thill was united in marriage to Mrs. Margaret (Wupperfeld) Ernsterhoff, widow of M. Ernsterhoff and daughter of Henry and Mary Wupperfeld, and to this union one child has been born, a son, Sylvester. Mrs. Thill was born in Prussia, last born of the four children born to her



MR. AND MRS. NICK THILL

parents, the others being Mary, Frank and Anna. In 1883 the Wupperfelds came to the United States and located on a farm in this county, near the city of Le Mars, where Henry Wupperfeld farmed for twenty-two years, at the end of which time he retired from the active labors of the farm. His wife died on February 15, 1912, and he is now making his home with Mr. and Mrs. Thill. Mr. and Mrs. Wupperfeld were the parents of four children, Mrs. Thill having a sister, Anna, the widow of Peter Elson, living in Remsen township, this county; another sister, Mary, living in Minnesota, and a brother, Frank, living in South Dakota. By Mrs. Thill's first marriage she is the mother of three children, Celesta, Bernice and Helen. The Thills are members of St. Catharine's Catholic church at Oyens and take a proper interest in parish affairs, as well as in the general social activities of the community in which they live.

NICK W. SCHMIDT.

A few years ago it was predicted by a learned man that, under the present system of farming, the time was not far distant when the wheat lands would become exhausted of their fertility and the population of the world would want for bread; and this through the thriftless farming of what was once the richest of soils. If every tiller of the soil farmed with as much caution and pains as Nick W. Schmidt, of Marion township, Plymouth county, such conditions as referred to above would not exist; for his land is just as productive as it was the first year it was in cultivation.

Nick W. Schmidt was born in Chicago, Illinois, May 25, 1868, a son of John George and Gertrude Schmidt, both natives of Germany. The father came to America with his parents when sixteen years old, the family locating in Chicago, where he took up the cooper's trade, and where he presently was married, continuing to follow his trade at Chicago until he came to Plymouth county. He followed his trade in Le Mars two years and then bought eighty acres of land in Marion township, which he developed into a good farm and where his son, Nick W., now makes his home. The place was raw prairie land when he moved on it and he began in typical pioneer fashion, broke the sod, erected rude buildings and by hard work finally had a comfortable home. His first set of buildings gave way to a substantial group and he added to his eighty until his place consisted of one hundred and sixty-five acres. After operating the place for a period of

twenty years he moved to Le Mars, retiring from active farming, and there he still resides. His wife died in 1894. Their family consisted of the following children: Julius H., the eldest; Nick W., the subject of this sketch; John, deceased, and Katherine, the wife of Bernard Assmann, of Portland, Oregon.

Nick W. Schmidt received part of his education in Chicago and part in Le Mars and in Marion township, this county. He assisted his father on the homestead until the latter retired, and two years later took charge of the place, which he has since successfully conducted along general lines. He has kept the farm well improved in every respect. Politically, Mr. Schmidt is a Republican. He belongs to the Catholic church and to the Catholic Order of Foresters.

In 1897 Nick W. Schmidt was united in marriage to Ida Nigg, daughter of Anton Nigg and wife, natives of Switzerland, who came to this country in 1882, proceeding on out to Iowa and settling at Le Mars. Anton Nigg was a skilled carpenter and was for years actively engaged as a building contractor in this county, building many of the houses in and about Le Mars, Hinton and Melbourne. He and his brother also at one time operated a planing-mill at Le Mars. Anton Nigg died in 1891 and is buried in the cemetery at Le Mars. His widow now makes her home with her daughter, Mrs. Schmidt. Anton Nigg and wife were the parents of two daughters, Mrs. Schmidt having a sister, who is now living at Venice, California, widow of George Heinemann, a former well-known resident of this county. George Heinemann died in California in 1910. His body was cremated there and the ashes were sent to Le Mars for burial. Mrs. Heinemann has one son, George. Mr. and Mrs. Schmidt have no children.

ANSEL L. YEATON.

Ansel L. Yeaton, mayor of the city of Akron and one of the best-known lawyers in Plymouth county, is a native of the state of Maine, but has been living in the West since 1893. He was born at Bangor, Maine, July 23, 1871, son of P. T. and Eva (Lennon) Yeaton, the former of whom, a civil engineer by profession, died about 1897. His widow survived him several years, her death occurring in 1901. They were the parents of two sons, the subject of this sketch having a brother, C. L. Yeaton, who is engaged in the real-estate business at St. Paul, Minnesota.

Reared in his native city of Bangor, Ansel L. Yeaton received his schooling in the schools of that city and was graduated from the high school in 1888. He then studied law and presently came West, locating at Bowdle, South Dakota, where he was engaged in the practice of law in partnership with his uncle, C. E. Lennon, for three years, at the end of which time he went to Aberdeen and there entered into a partnership with A. F. LeClaire, in the practice of law and in the real-estate business. After a residence of two years at Aberdeen Mr. Yeaton moved to St. Paul, where he engaged in the real-estate business, with particular reference to the sale of South Dakota lands, connected with the Harmon Land Company, and after being located there for about a year extended his connection to cover a wide area and for about five years was a traveling land agent, meanwhile continuing his headquarters at St. Paul and still engaged in the sale of Dakota lands. In 1895 Mr. Yeaton had secured admission to the bar in South Dakota and while at St. Paul decided to again engage in the practice of his profession. With that end in view he came to Iowa in 1905 and located at Akron, where he ever since has made his home. He secured admission to the bar of Iowa and formed a partnership at Akron with A. F. Johnson, in the practice of law and in the general real-estate business, Mr. Yeaton giving his particular attention to the law and Mr. Johnson to the real-estate department of the firm's business. This mutually agreeable arrangement continued until Mr. Johnson met his death in an automobile wreck in 1911, after which Mr. Yeaton continued the business alone until in September, 1914, when he formed a partnership with A. E. Ross and has since devoted his time to the practice of law. Mr. Yeaton is a Republican and ever since his arrival in Akron has given his thoughtful attention to local civic affairs. In 1912 he was elected mayor of the city of Akron and so satisfactory did his services in that connection prove that he was re-elected in 1914 and in 1916 and is still serving in that important executive capacity.

In March, 1905, the year in which he located at Akron, Ansel L. Yeaton was united in marriage to Helen Broadbent, of that city, and to this union two children have been born, Theodore and Francis. The Yeatons have a very pleasant home at Akron and Mr. and Mrs. Yeaton give proper attention to the general social activities of their home town. Mayor Yeaton is a noble of the Ancient Order of Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, affiliated with Abu Bekr Temple at Sioux City and with the consistory, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, at that place, and takes a warm interest in Masonic affairs.

CHRIS SCHNEIDER.

Chris Schneider, a native of Plymouth township, this county, is now one of the successful farmers in that township, where he was born on October 27, 1867, the son of Philip and Margaret (Lumsbauch) Schneider.

Philip Schneider was the son of Dietrich and Elizabeth (Reuter) Schneider. The maternal and paternal grandparents of our subject were of the farming class in Germany and were highly respected people. The father of Philip Schneider was born in 1800 and died at his home in Germany on May 2, 1840. After the death of her husband, Elizabeth Schneider left her ohme in the Fatherland on May 8, 1853, and landed at New York on September 1 of that year. For two years she lived at Albany, New York, after which she moved to Ogle county, Illinois, where she lived for one year. It was there that John Schneider, the brother of Philip, left the rest of the family and started for Iowa. He remained at Dubuque until March 16, 1856, when he, with three other German boys started to walk to Plymouth county. Elizabeth Schneider, the mother, with the others of her children, Philip, Henry, Daniel and Jacob, in that same year left Ogle county with an ox team for the long journey to Plymouth county, Iowa, which they reached in safety after a journey of five weeks. The trip was a hard one and the members of the family suffered many of the hardships of those days of slow travel.

Philip Schneider, the father of our subject, died on December 9, 1905, and the wife and mother died in June, 1900, at the age of sixty-six years. They were the parents of the following children: Julia, Jacob, Elizabeth, Charles, Henry, William, Ione, Chris and Adam. The Schneiders came to this county before the days of the granting of homesteads, and Philip Schneider pre-empted two hundred acres of land in the county. This he developed and improved and in time added to the original tract, until he was the owner of nine hundred acres of excellent land. He always took an active interest in local affairs and was one of the organizers of the Floyd Valley United Evangelical church.

Chris Schneider received his education in the schools of Plymouth county and at Sioux City. After he left school he returned to his old home, where he engaged in general farming and rented his father's farm for a number of years, and is now operating a farm of two hundred and sixty acres. He cultivates from ninety to one hundred acres of corn and from fifty to sixty acres of small grain, and feeds most of the grain that he raises

to cattle and hogs. He is one of the progressive men of the township and, because of his close application to his business and good management, has met with much success. He is a thorough gentleman and his genial personality has won for him many friends throughout the county.

In 1896 Chris Schneider was united in marriage to Charlotte Hendricksen, the daughter of James Hendricksen and wife, and to this marriage two children have been born, Harold, who is at home, and Clair, who is attending high school at Sioux City. The family are held in the highest regard and respect in the community and are prominent in the local social life.

Mr. Schneider is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and of the Modern Woodmen of America. He is identified with the Democratic party, but is not a radical partisan, and uses his influence for the best interests of the county as well as the township.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN WINTERSTEEN.

Benjamin Franklin Wintersteen, a well-known jeweler and merchant of Akron, this county, former postmaster of that place and for years one of the most progressive business men there, is a native of the great Keystone state, but has been a resident of Iowa the greater part of the time since he was a boy and a resident of Akron, engaged in business there continuously since the year 1887. He was born at Pottsville, Pennsylvania, May 24, 1855, son of Peter K. and Hattie (Reeser) Wintersteen, who years ago became residents of Iowa and both of whom are now deceased.

Peter K. Wintersteen was reared in Pennsylvania and there learned the jeweler's trade, which he followed at Pottsville until he came West, locating at Fulton, Iowa, where he was living when the Civil War broke out. He enlisted for service in the Union army during that struggle between the states, but was rejected on account of physical disability. Some time later he moved with his family to Muscatine, this state, where for a time he was engaged in working at the shoemaker's trade, a trade he had learned as a boy, and while thus engaged his health gave way, compelling his retirement to a farm in Jasper county, where he farmed for about fourteen years, at the end of which time he moved to Colfax and was there engaged as a watchmaker for twenty years, or until 1900, when he sold his interests there and retired from business, he and his wife thereafter making their home with their son, the subject of this sketch, at Akron. In 1903 Peter

K. Wintersteen went to Chicago to undergo a surgical operation and there died, being then at the age of sixty-four years. His widow survived for about four years, her death occurring in 1907, she then being sixty-five years of age. She was a kinswoman of John Quincy Adams, her mother and the former President of the United States having been first cousins. Peter K. Wintersteen and wife were the parents of three sons, the subject of this sketch having two brothers, James Wintersteen, a farmer, living in the vicinity of Nevada, Missouri, and Harry Wintersteen, a blacksmith and wagon-maker at Portland, Oregon.

Benjamin F. Wintersteen was but a child when his parents moved from Pennsylvania to Iowa and he received his elementary schooling at Muscatine. He was about fifteen years of age when his father moved on to the farm in Jasper county and about a year later, when sixteen years old, he went West and for about six years thereafter spent his time in the mountains, in Colorado, Arizona, Dakota and New Mexico and for some time was engaged on a horse ranch in Arizona. Upon his return to Iowa Mr. Wintersteen became connected with his father in the jewelry business at Colfax and was thus engaged at that place for five years, or until the fall of 1887, when he located at Akron and there opened a jewelry store, a business in which he has been engaged continuously ever since. Upon starting in business Mr. Wintersteen rented a small store room, but as his business prospered he presently expanded the same, bought out a stock of wall-paper and stationery and moved into a larger building. He later still further enlarged his quarters and added a stock of paints, chinaware, cut-glass, silverware and the like and long has had one of the best-equipped stores in his line in this part of the state. Mr. Wintersteen is a Democrat and during the administration of President Cleveland was appointed postmaster of Akron, serving in that important capacity for a period of four years and six months. He also has served as a member of the Akron school board and in other ways has contributed of his time and his energies to the public service.

In March, 1895, Benjamin F. Wintersteen was united in marriage to Hattie Round, who was born in Wisconsin, daughter of the Reverend Round and wife, the former of whom is a minister of the Baptist church, and to this union two daughters have been born, Ethel, who was graduated from the Akron high school in 1914, attended normal school in South Dakota and is now engaged in teaching in that state, and Grace, who is a student in the Akron high school. The Wintersteens are members of the Baptist church and take a proper interest in the various beneficences of the same, as well as

in the general social activities of their home town. Mr. Wintersteen is a Royal Arch and Scottish Rite Mason and, together with his wife and elder daughter, is a member of the local chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star, which he helped to organize and in which both Mrs. Wintersteen and Miss Ethel Wintersteen are office bearers.

ROBERT H. WOOLWORTH.

Such different methods have to be employed in coaxing from mother earth the grains, fruits and vegetables by which we live that the expert farmer of one country would be a decided failure in another. Many years are required to become properly acquainted with the methods of successful agriculture in any land and clime. Robert H. Woolworth, of Hungerford township, is one of the skillful farmers of Plymouth county.

Robert H. Woolworth was born in Iowa county, Wisconsin, July 6, 1873, a son of James H. and Dorothy (Lloyd) Woolworth. James R. Woolworth, the grandfather, was born in New York state, from which he came to Iowa county, Wisconsin, in pioneer days. He was a carpenter by trade. Later he came to Plymouth county, Iowa, and spent the rest of his life among his children. James H. Woolworth, father of Robert H., was born in the state of New York, May 23, 1843. He came to Iowa county, Wisconsin, with the rest of the family and was married there. In the spring of 1874 he removed to Plymouth county, Iowa, with his wife and the following children: James, Katherine, Eveline, Frank and Robert H. His other three children, Nellie, Samuel and Rosie, were all born in Plymouth county. The father bought a farm in Hungerford township, accumulating four hundred and twenty acres, all in this township, and he became one of the leading general farmers in his locality. Politically, he was a Republican and was active in public affairs, holding a number of township offices. He belonged to the Methodist Episcopal church in Iowa county, Wisconsin, and he was one of the organizers of the church of that denomination at James, Iowa. His death occurred on June 12, 1915. His widow is now living in Leeds, Iowa. He was a soldier in the Civil War, enlisting in Company A, Eleventh Regiment, Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, in which he served three years with credit, at the end of which time he was honorably discharged. He took part in many important engagements. His health was undermined by the hard service, but he finally recovered. He was a member of the

Grand Army of the Republic, and belonged to the Masonic Order and of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, including the Daughters of Rebekah.

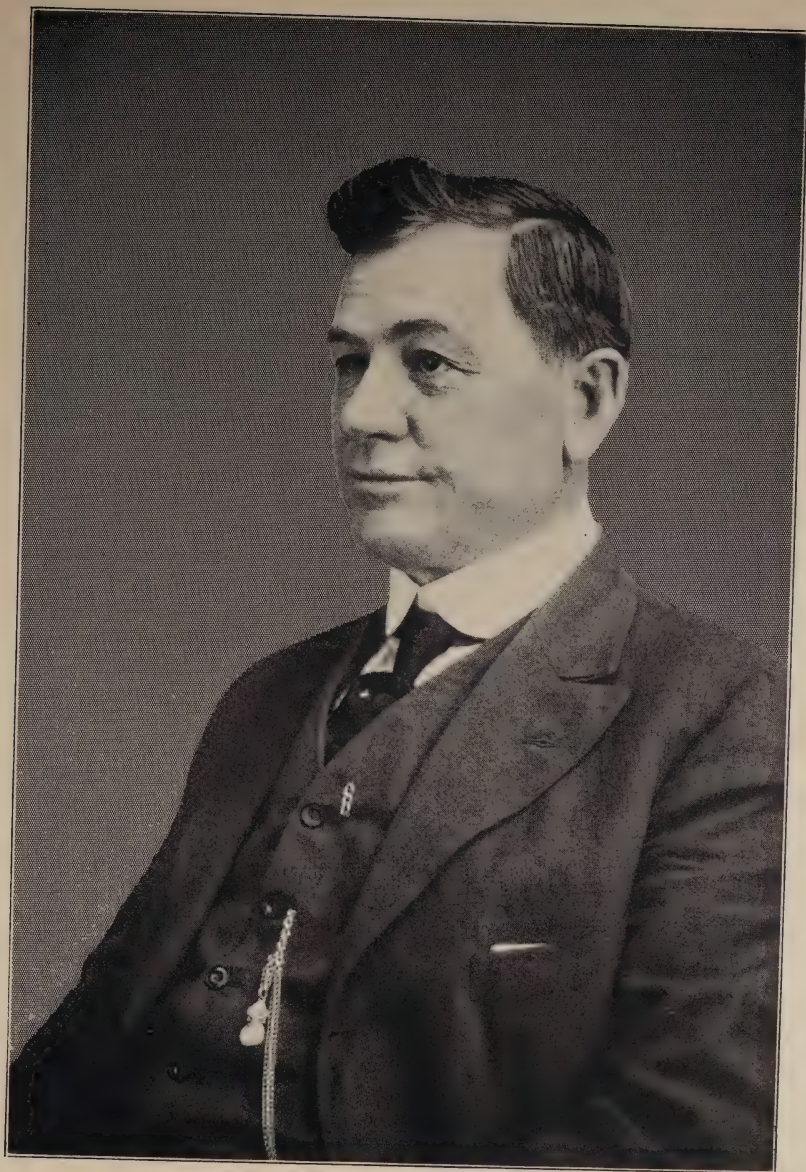
Robert H. Woolworth grew to manhood on the home farm, where he worked when a boy. He received a common-school education. On June 6, 1901, he married Leslie McGilvra, a native of South Dakota and a daughter of Nathaniel and Laura McGilvra, and to this union five children have been born, Sylvester, Roy, Laura, Lawrence and Glenn. Mrs. Woolworth's parents were farmers in South Dakota. Her father died there and her mother is now living in North Dakota.

Mr. Woolworth has always been a farmer and has been quite successful. He bought his present place of sixty acres in Hungerford township in 1899 and has made a comfortable living by mixed farming. Politically, he is a Republican, but has never aspired to public office. Fraternally, he belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

HON. J. M. WORMLEY.

The office of biography is not to give voice to a man's modest estimate of himself and his accomplishments, but rather to leave upon the record the verdict establishing his character by the consensus of opinion on the part of his neighbors and fellow citizens. The life of the Hon. J. M. Wormley, mayor of Kingsley, representative in the Legislature from this district, and for many years one of the leaders of the bar in Plymouth county, has been such as to elicit just praise from those who know him best.

J. M. Wormley was born in Macomb, Illinois, November 25, 1863. He is a son of Samuel and Susan (Shoopman) Wormley, and a grandson of George Wormley, of Pennsylvania, a cooper by trade, who came to Ohio from Pennsylvania, but a few years later moved on to McDonough county, Illinois. He married Patience Smedley. Samuel Wormley, mentioned above, was born in 1833 and grew up in Ohio, where he was educated in the common schools. His death occurred on July 3, 1905, and his widow died on December 11, 1915. They were parents of the following children: George, T. J., John M., Samuel A., Armenta A., Cora B., Lulu E., Mary E., Henry W., Patience, James G., and David F. The father of the above-named children was a brickmason by trade but he spent the latter part of his active life as a farmer. He was living at Newton, Iowa, at the time of his death.



HON. J. M. WORMLEY

J. M. Wormley attended Hazel Dell Academy at Newton, Iowa, and the State Agricultural College at Ames and later took a law course at the Iowa State University, from which he was graduated in 1889. Mr. Wormley began the practice of his profession at Kingsley and was soon enjoying a large and lucrative practice, which he continued until his retirement in 1912. During the period of his active practice, Mr. Wormley was a conspicuous figure in the local courts, and was one of the leading general lawyers in the county.

Mr. Wormley also has been quite successful in a business way, and is the owner of one thousand and eighty acres of excellent land in Plymouth county and of three hundred and twenty acres of valuable farming land in Woodbury county. He has for a number of years been a speculator and real-estate dealer. He located in Kingsley in the year 1889 and has since made his home there. He has long been active in Republican politics; in fact, a leader of his party in Plymouth county. In the campaign of 1916 he made the race for representative in the Legislature from Plymouth county, and was elected to that office. Mr. Wormley also has served his home town as recorder and as councilman and is now mayor of Kingsley, having held that office longer than any other incumbent. As a public servant he has been true to the trusts reposed in him and is popular with all classes.

In September, 1893, J. M. Wormley was married to Frankie Rock, who was reared and educated in Marshall county, Iowa, a daughter of George Rock, a native of the state of Pennsylvania, and to this union the following children have been born: Edna B., Sue M., Henry W., John M., Francis B., George F., Woodrow W. and Charles Hughes.

CHARLES BENNETT.

Charles Bennett, one of Plymouth county's best known farmers and the proprietor of a well-kept farm in Hungerford township, was born in Whitley county, Indiana, March 13, 1852, a son of Aaron and Hattie (Moore) Bennett. George Moore, his maternal grandfather, was a native of Germany, from which country he came to Indiana and lived most of his life in the neighborhood of Columbia City, dying there. Isaac Bennett, the paternal grandfather, was a native of Ohio, spending the latter part of his life on a farm near Columbia City, Indiana, where he died. Aaron Bennett,

the father, was born in Delaware county, Ohio, where he spent his boyhood; but after his marriage he moved to the vicinity of Columbia City, Indiana, where he farmed for some time, finally moving to Leeds, Iowa, where he died a year later. He moved to that place from Spencer, Nebraska, where he owned a farm of one hundred and sixty acres. His family consisted of the following children: Emery, who became a soldier in the Union army during the Civil War and was killed in battle after serving a year and a half; Susannah, Samantha, Matilda, James (deceased), Elias, Charles and William.

Charles Bennett grew to manhood on the farm near Columbia City, Indiana, and he received his education in the schools of that place. He was married in 1876 to Mary J. Phillipps, who was born at Pearson, Indiana, a daughter of Frank and Elizabeth (Fenton) Phillipps, and to this union the following children have been born: Luella, William F., Clarence, Lizzy, Perry, Oma, Vern and Myrtle, all of whom are married but Perry.

Charles Bennett came to Plymouth county in the fall of 1879 and in the autumn of 1880 he bought a farm in section 27 of Lincoln township, which he sold three years later and then moved to Kansas. A year later he moved to Woodbury county, Iowa. He finally returned to Plymouth county and bought eighty acres in section 19 of Hungerford township, where he has resided during the past thirteen years, making a comfortable living as a general farmer and stock man. Politically, Mr. Bennett is a Democrat. He belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, which order he joined twenty-eight years ago.

HENRY WINTER.

Many people are of the opinion that the word farming means the same the world over, and so it does in a sense; but yet, like many another word in our complicated language, it has what one might call an elastic meaning; at least the methods of farming vary greatly in different countries. This being the case that man is wise who remains in his own locality if he intends to devote his attention to farming. Henry Winter is living on the farm on which he was born, in Hungerford township, Plymouth county, being contented to spend his life in his native community.

Henry Winter was born on October 10, 1865, a son of John and Regina (Lentz) Winter, and a grandson of Christian Lentz, a native of Germany,

from which country he came to America, locating in Plymouth county, Iowa, taking up a homestead in Hungerford township, where he spent the rest of his life. Dietrich Winter, the paternal grandfather, was also a native of Germany. He came to America with his family in 1856, locating in Plymouth county, Iowa, but a year later moved to Jackson county, Nebraska, where he established his home on a farm. His children were named as follows: John, Lewis, Henry, Dietrich, Katherine, Anna Marie, and Elizabeth.

John Winter, father of Henry, spent his boyhood in Germany and attended school there. He came with his parents to America. After living on a farm a number of years in Jackson county, Nebraska, he moved to Hungerford township, Plymouth county, Iowa, and bought eighty acres, but a few years later he went back to Nebraska and in 1889 settled in the western part of that state, where he farmed until his death, October 16, 1901, on his sixty-fifth birthday. His widow is still living on the farm there. She was born on September 29, 1832, and is therefore now eighty-four years old. To these parents the following children were born: Henry, the subject of this sketch; Phillip, who also lives in this county; Elizabeth, John C., Dietrich and Mary, all of whom are living. The father, John Winter, was a soldier in the Civil War, serving in the Sixth Iowa Cavalry for three years and six months, his services being confined to the state of Iowa and against the Indians in the West. He made an excellent record and received an honorable discharge. He was a member of the Lutheran church and was one of the organizers of the Evangelical Lutheran church of Hinton. He became one of the prosperous farmers of Plymouth county, owning in all here five hundred and eighty acres.

Henry Winter grew up on the farm and attended the common schools. He went to Jackson county, Nebraska, with his parents, but later returned to Plymouth county and has followed farming here ever since. He owns one hundred and ninety-seven acres of the old homestead in Hungerford township, which he has kept well improved and well cultivated and has been very successful as a general farmer and stock raiser, specializing in Shorthorn cattle and Duroc-Jersey hogs.

Henry Winter was married on February 12, 1890, to Emma E. Bender, and to their union two children have been born, Mary E. and Madelia, both at home.

Philip Winter, brother of the subject of this sketch, who lives just across the road from him and married a sister of his wife, was born in September, 1867, in Plymouth county. He grew up on the home farm and

attended school in Hungerford township. On January 11, 1894, he married Mary Bender, a daughter of Christian Bender. A sketch of the history of this family will be found on another page of this volume, under the caption of George H. Bender. Two children have been born to Philip Winter and wife, Rudolph and Martha.

Philip Winter owns two hundred and twenty acres in Hungerford township and one hundred and sixty acres in Murray county, Minnesota. He has a well-improved farm, good buildings and is a successful general farmer and stock raiser. He belongs to the Evangelical Lutheran church, which he helps support. He put the improvements on his land now to be seen there. He specializes in raising grade Shorthorn cattle and Poland China hogs.

REV. MICHAEL CAREY.

Michael Carey, the well-known and prominent Catholic priest of Lincoln township, Plymouth county, Iowa, was born in the County Clare, Ireland, on December 27, 1861, the son of William and Margaret (Crowley) Carey.

William and Margaret (Crowley) Carey were both natives of Ireland and there received their education in the public schools, grew up and were married. After marriage they continued to live in the land of their nativity, and were among the highly respected and esteemed people of their community, and there their children were born and were educated. William and Margaret Carey were reared in the faith of the Catholic church, and always took much interest in all church work. Their children were reared in the faith, and grew to be strong advocates of the principles of the church of their fathers. There were ten children in the family—five now in Ireland and five in America. Those in America are : Thomas, of Troy, New York; Michael, William, who is a resident of San Francisco, California; James, and Lawrence who is a Catholic priest at St. Thomas, Minnesota.

Michael Carey received his education in the schools of his native land. After having attended the school at Ennis for two and one-half years, he entered Maynooth College, where he remained for six and one-half years, when he was ordained with the class of 1886. He remained in the work in his native land until 1898, when he decided to come to the United States. Before sailing for this country, he had accepted a call to the monastery at Dubuque, Iowa. For five years, he did most efficient work at Dubuque,

and later was appointed to the church at Moorland, where he remained for six years, and where his ministerial work was most satisfactory to the church and the community. For the next eight months he served the people in the church at Sutherland, Iowa, after which he came to Lincoln township, Plymouth county, in 1914. Here he has fifty-three families in the church, towards whom he extends the most careful attention.

The church at Lincoln township was organized in 1892, with Father Thomas Coffey in charge, who for some years gave the parish the very best service possible. Before that time the church was a mission and was attached to Kingsley, and previously to Le Mars. After the careful and successful work of Father Coffey, Father M. M. Tierney came, and had pastorate supervision until the time of his death in 1914.

After the death of Father Tierney, the Rev. Michael Carey came to the parish, since which time he has given his best efforts to the religious needs of the community. He has met with much success, and today he is held in the highest regard and esteem, not only by the members of his church, but by the community in general.

BENJAMIN F. HELD.

In connection with this brief biographical sketch, the attention of the reader is respectfully invited to the memorial sketch of the late Philip Held, presented elsewhere in this volume, in which there is set out at some length something of the history of the Held family in Plymouth county and of the activities as a farmer and stockman of Philip Held, a pioneer of this county, whose influence in bringing about the raising of better live stock in this region was exerted for many years and until his death in 1899; an influence which still goes on, for the "Mondamin Stock Farm" established by him in Hungerford township many years ago is still being operated by his widow and his sons, the great estate remaining undivided.

By reference to the sketch above mentioned, it will be noted that Benjamin F. Held is the sixth in order of birth of the ten children born to his parents, Philip and Caroline (Koehler) Held, pioneers of this county. He was born on the Held farm, long known as "Mondamin Stock Farm," in Hungerford township, June 12, 1881, and has lived in that township all his life. He received his schooling in the local schools of that township and from boyhood was an able assistant in the labors of developing the stock

farm, with the extensive interests of which he is still connected, the place being operated since the death of the elder Held as an undivided estate. After his marriage in 1910 Mr. Held established his home at his present place of residence on the estate, just a quarter of a mile south of the village of Hinton and there he and his family are very pleasantly situated.

It was on November 24, 1910, that Benjamin F. Held was united in marriage to Viola Croston, daughter of G. C. Croston and wife, residents of Hungerford township, and to this union three children have been born, Emma, Howard and Hazel. Mr. and Mrs. Held take a proper interest in the general social activities of the Hinton neighborhood and are helpful in promoting all good causes thereabout.

WILLIAM HENRY LORADITCH.

William Henry Loraditch, a well-known farmer of Hungerford township, this county, and for the past twelve years the mail carrier on rural route No. 2 out of Hinton, is a native of the old Keystone state, but has been a resident of Iowa since the days of his young manhood, when he came out here "to grow up with the country." He was born in Somerset county, Pennsylvania, September 10, 1866, son of Stephen and Catherine (Weible) Loraditch, the former a native of Austria, whose last days were spent in his native land, and the latter of whom, a native of Pennsylvania, of German descent, is still living in that state.

Stephen Loraditch came to this country from Austria in the days of his young manhood and was married in Pennsylvania, settling in Somerset county. In his later years he returned to his native land on a visit and there died in 1894, being then seventy years of age. His widow is still living at her old home in Pennsylvania. They were the parents of five children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the third in order of birth, the others being Anna, Mary Elizabeth (deceased), Edward J. and Harvey A.

William H. Loraditch was reared in Somerset county, Pennsylvania, and received his elementary schooling in the schools of that county. He later came to Iowa and completed his schooling in the Western Normal College. In 1890, in Buena Vista county, he was married and in March, 1897, bought the farm of eighty acres on which he has since made his home in Hungerford township. He has made excellent improvements on his place and he and his family are very pleasantly situated there. In 1904 Mr.

Loraditch was appointed mail carrier on rural route No. 2, out of Hinton, and has ever since been covering that route, making daily trips of twenty-eight miles through Lincoln, Stanton and Hungerford townships, being thus one of the best-known figures in that part of the county. Six or eight years ago Mr. Loraditch built a new barn and he since has remodeled the house he erected upon taking possession of the farm. His other farm buildings are in keeping with the same and he has a well-equipped farm plant.

On April 10, 1890, William H. Loraditch was united in marriage to Mrs. Nora Ann (Smith) Weller, daughter of Mathew and Sarah Ann (Van Eaton) Smith, pioneers of Buena Vista county, this state, and to this union nine children have been born, four of whom died in infancy, the others being: Andrew L., who married Mary Rollins, and they are the parents of one child, David William; William Clarence, Margaret E., Anna L. and Mary O. The Loraditch family are members of the Catholic church at Hinton and take a proper interest in parish affairs, as well as in the general social activities of the community in which they live.

F. OSCAR ANDERSON.

F. Oscar Anderson, one of Hungerford township's well-known and substantial farmers and the owner, in partnership with his elder brother, Alfred Anderson, of a fine farm of two hundred acres in that township, is a native of the kingdom of Sweden, born on February 9, 1879, son of Anders and Nella (Pearson) Nelson, farming people and the parents of seven children, but two of whom, Alfred, who was born on June 3, 1874, and the subject of this sketch, came to this country. Anders Nelson and his wife were members of the Swedish Lutheran church and their children were reared in that faith.

It was in 1909 that the Anderson brothers bought their present farm of two hundred acres in section 18 of Hungerford township and they have developed the same into one of the best-kept farms in that part of the county. In 1910 F. Oscar Anderson married and established his home on that place and has ever since resided there. The Andersons have a very pleasant home, situated two and one-half miles west of Hinton, and are engaged in general farming and also give considerable attention to the raising of live stock. They have a well-equipped farm plant and are doing very well.

As noted above, it was in 1910 that F. Oscar Anderson was united in

marriage to Agde Pearson and to this union one child has been born, a son, Raymond Elsworth. Alfred Anderson, who is unmarried, makes his home with his brother, the farm being operated under a mutually agreeable partnership arrangement.

JOHN BECKER

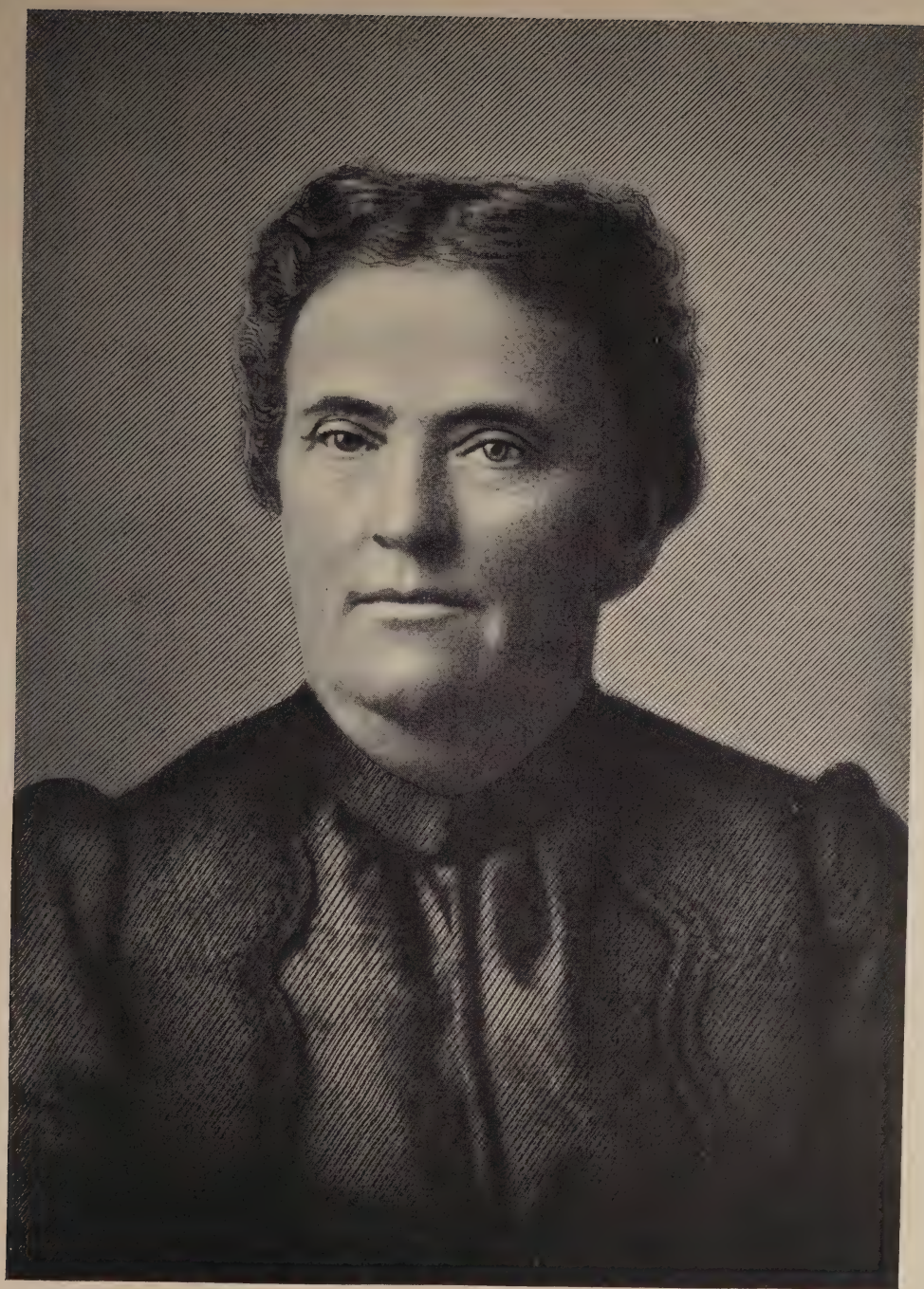
John Becker, one of the best-known pioneer farmers of Plymouth county, now living comfortably retired in the city of Le Mars, where he has a very pleasant home at 1312 Madison street, is a native son of Iowa and has lived in this state all his life. He was born on a pioneer farm in Clayton county, this state, April 7, 1847, son of Casper Becker and wife, early settlers in that county, both of whom spent their last days there.

Casper Becker was a native of France, a son of General Becker, one of Napoleon's most famous commanders, who served for twenty years in the Napoleonic Wars, was as the head of a command when Napoleon invaded Russia, his command firing the first cannon fired by the French on Russian soil, and was a witness to the firing of Moscow by the Russians and a participant in the disastrous retreat of the French army following that historical event. General Becker was of German descent, his father having moved from Germany to France on account of his abhorrence of the ruler of his native land at that period.

Reared amid military conditions, Casper Becker early joined his country's army and his young manhood was spent as a soldier of France. Upon the completion of his term of service in his native country he came to the United States and before he had been on American soil six hours had enlisted for service in the United States army, a service he continued for years, his first actual service in behalf of his adopted arms having been performed during the Seminole War in Florida. He then, in turn, participated in the Black Hawk War and in the Mexican War and when the Civil War broke out, though then well along in years, rendered further service in behalf of the Union arms. As an incident to his long service in the regular army, Casper Becker helped in the construction of a number of the country's most notable forts, including Ft. Sumter, Ft. Dodge, Ft. Atchison and the fort at Prairie du Chien, and for a number of years served also as a recruiting officer for the government. At the termination of his service in the Mexican War he exercised his soldier's right to homestead and entered a claim to three hundred and twenty acres in Fayette county,



JOHN BECKER



MRS. AMELIA BECKER

Iowa, but presently traded the claim for a team of horses and a yoke of oxen and then homesteaded a farm in Clayton county, where he established his home and where he spent the remainder of his life; a substantial farmer and landowner. As his affairs prospered he enlarged his holdings until he became the owner of five hundred and sixty acres of land. Casper Becker was twice married. His first wife, the mother of the subject of this sketch, died when the latter was but a child. She was the mother of three children, of whom John Becker is the only one now living. Some time after the death of his first wife Casper Becker married Anna Book and to that union seven children were born, of whom four are now living, but none residents of this county.

John Becker grew to manhood on his father's farm in Clayton county and remained there, a valued assistant in the work of developing and improving the same, until after his marriage in 1873, when he and his wife came to Plymouth county and here established their home. Upon locating in this county Mr. Becker bought a farm of three hundred and twenty acres in section 25 of America township, paying for the same eight dollars and twenty cents an acre, and proceeded to develop and improve the same. From the very beginning of his undertaking he was successful in his operations and, barring the backset suffered at the time of the grasshopper visitations, prospered, gradually adding to his land holdings until he became the owner of four hundred acres of choice land and became recognized as one of the most substantial farmers in that part of the county. In addition to his general farming, Mr. Becker paid considerable attention to the raising of high-grade live stock and at one time had as many as seven hundred head of cattle on his place. He was continually making improvements on the place and, all told, has expended fifteen thousand dollars in such improvements, having thus brought his farm up to a high standard of development. There he continued to make his home until 1910, when he and his wife retired from the farm and moved to Le Mars, where Mrs. Becker died on Christmas Day, 1913, and where Mr. Becker continues to make his home. Mr. Becker is a Democrat and for thirty-four years, during his residence on the farm, gave his close attention to local civic affairs, during all of that period having held office of one character or another. For six years he was a member of the board of supervisors and he also served as school director, trustee, assessor and clerk of the township at various times. Mr. Becker is a member of St. Joseph's German Catholic church at Le Mars, as was his wife, and their children were reared in that

faith. He is a member of the Fraternal Order of Eagles and takes a warm interest in the affairs of that organization.

It was in 1873, during his residence in Clayton county, that John Becker was united in marriage to Amelia Niemeyer, a daughter of Henry Niemeyer and wife, and to that union eight children were born, namely: Clara, who married F. A. Kunkel and has nine children, Matilda, Arthur, Edward, Agnes, Felix, Caroline, Dorothy, Mildred and Jerome; Casper, now deceased; John, who died in infancy; John (second), who married Ethel Franklin and has two children, Evelyn and Leland; Elizabeth, who married John Kunkel and has five children, Raymond, Sylvester, Marie, Leo and Marcus; Henry, who married Margaret Foley and has five children, Margaret, Robert, Dale, Donald and Lois; Obdulia, deceased, and Jessie, who is keeping house for her father. As noted above, the mother of these children died on December 25, 1913.

WILLIAM J. LAWRENCE.

William J. Lawrence, cashier of the Bank of Merrill at Merrill, this county, and for years one of the best-known figures in banking and commercial circles in this part of the state, is a native of the neighboring state of Wisconsin, but has been a resident of Plymouth county since pioneer days and has therefore been a witness to and a participant in the wonderful development that has marked this region within the past forty years and more.

Mr. Lawrence was born at Georgetown, Grant county, Wisconsin, August 17, 1853, son of Joshua and Delilah Lawrence, the former of whom was born at Chillicothe, Ohio, December 15, 1814, of English descent, and the latter, at Concord, Indiana, September 10, 1821, of German descent. Joshua Lawrence and wife were the parents of four children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the last born, the others being as follow: Mrs. Nancy Erwin, of St. Charles, Iowa; Mrs. Susie LeValley, of Sheffield, this state, and Albert J. Lawrence, of Portland, Oregon.

William J. Lawrence received his schooling in the district schools of his home neighborhood in Wisconsin and remained there until he was twenty years of age, when, in the spring of 1873, he came to Plymouth county and has resided here ever since. In 1898 when the Bank of Merrill was established at Merrill, Mr. Lawrence was made cashier of that institution and

he ever since has occupied that highly responsible position, long having been recognized as one of the most accurately-informed bankers in Plymouth county. He has ever taken an earnest part in the general affairs of the community in which he lives and his strong personal influence has ever been exerted in behalf of such movements as have been designed to advance the general welfare of the community and to promote its various interests.

At Georgetown, Wisconsin, just before coming to Plymouth county in 1873, William J. Lawrence was united in marriage to Sarah M. Wannamaugher, who was born at Galena, Illinois, August 20, 1854, daughter of Daniel and Margaret Wannamaugher, who were the parents of three children, Mrs. Lawrence having two brothers, James and Daniel Wannamaugher, and to this union five children have been born, namely: Cora, born on February 3, 1874; Elmer E., December 13, 1877; Vora, June 18, 1879; William E., August 17, 1881, and Jessie, August 14, 1883, all of whom are married and still living. Mr. Lawrence is a Republican and has ever given a good citizen's attention to local civic affairs, but has never been included in the office-seeking class. By religious persuasion he is a Protestant and in his fraternal affiliations is connected with the Masonic fraternity, with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, with the Knights of Pythias and with the Modern Woodmen of the World, in the affairs of all of which organizations he takes a warm interest.

E. C. F. MOHR.

E. C. F. Mohr, merchant at Westfield, this county, former president of the Bank of Westfield, former member of the council of that village and in various ways actively identified with the development of the community in which he lives, is a native son of Iowa and has lived in this state all his life. He was born on a pioneer farm near Wheatland, in Clinton county, May 16, 1867, son of Henry and Margretta (Koch) Mohr, natives of Germany and Iowa pioneers, the latter of whom is still living in this state.

Henry Mohr was born in the Prussian province of Sleswick-Holstein and as a young man came to this country and proceeded West, locating at Davenport, this state, when that now thriving city was but a mere village, and there he took employment with the railroad company, helping to build the first railroad constructed in Iowa, the old road from Davenport to Iowa City, the latter of which then was the state capital. At Davenport he met

and married Margretta Koch, who also was born in Sleswick-Holstein and who had come to this country with her parents, the family settling at Davenport, and there he established his home, engaging in the drayage business there for several years, at the end of which time he moved to Clinton county, bought a farm of about two hundred and twenty acres near Wheatfield and there established his home, continuing to reside there for twenty-two years, at the end of which time he sold his farm and moved over to Sac county and located at Wall Lake, where he engaged in the general mercantile business and in the sale of agricultural implements and lumber, becoming quite successful in these varied lines and presently establishing lumber yards also at Carnarvon and Lake View. There Henry Mohr continued in business the rest of his life, his death occurring more than twenty years ago. His widow is still surviving and continues to make her home at Wall Lake. She is a member of the German Lutheran church, as was her husband, and their children were reared in the faith of that church. There were seven of these children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the third in order of birth, the others being as follow: Herman Henry, who lives in Chicago, where he is engaged in the manufacture of flush valves; August William, who lives at Buffalo, North Dakota, where he is engaged in the sale of agricultural implements; Gustavus Adolphus, a retired merchant, who continues to make his home at Wall Lake, this state; Henry David, a lumberman, who makes his home at Muskado, Wisconsin; Agnes, who married H. D. Gray and continues to live at Wall Lake, and Carl, who is engaged in the insurance business at Chicago.

E. C. F. Mohr completed his common-school education in the high school at Wall Lake and supplemented the same by a course in a commercial college at Omaha, after which he joined his father in the lumber business at Wall Lake and when he reached his majority was made a partner with his father, under the firm name of H. Mohr & Son, an arrangement which continued until the death of the elder Mohr, after which a division of interests was made in the family, E. C. F. Mohr continuing to operate the lumber yard and the other interests at Lake View and his brothers operating the lumber yards at Wall Lake and at Carnarvon. For five years Mr. Mohr continued thus engaged, in the meanwhile, in 1900, becoming interested with Neil McFarland, in the establishment of a private bank at Westfield and was elected president of the same, the Bank of Westfield, the first bank established in that village. Shortly afterward he disposed of his interests at Lake View and on January 1, 1901, moved to Westfield, where he ever since has made his home. Upon locating at Westfield Mr. Mohr bought the hard-

ware store of Hemphill Brothers and has since been proprietor of the same, carrying now a complete stock of general hardware, agricultural implements and harness. He also continued his connection as head of the Bank of Westfield until about 1911, when he sold his interest in that concern to Mr. McFarland and has since devoted his attention to his growing mercantile interests. Mr. Mohr is a Republican and ever since locating at Westfield has given his thoughtful attention to local civic affairs. From the time of the organization of the village until about four years ago he served as a member of the village council and is now and has been for some years serving as treasurer of the local school district.

In 1888 E. C. F. Mohr was united in marriage to Eyelina Meek, of Boone, this state, a daughter of Samuel S. Meek and wife, pioneers of that section, and to this union two children have been born, Earl L., who is now associated with his father in business at Westfield, and Theo. L., a student in the local high school. The Mohrs have a very pleasant home and take a proper interest in the general social activities of their home town and of the community at large. Mr. Mohr is a Royal Arch Mason and a Knight Templar, connected with the blue lodge at Akron and with the chapter and commandery at Sioux City and takes a warm interest in Masonic affairs. He and his wife are also affiliated with the Eastern Star at Akron, Iowa; his son, Earl L., belongs to the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons at Akron, Iowa.

WILLIAM SHERMAN McKIBBIN.

William Sherman McKibbin, one of Plymouth county's well-to-do farmers, the proprietor of a fine farm of three hundred and twenty acres in Lincoln township, is a native son of Iowa and has lived in this state all his life, with the exception of six years spent in western Kansas. He was born on a farm in Cedar county, June 4, 1873, son of Joseph and Eliza (Chase) McKibbin, the former a native of Scotland and the latter of Iowa.

Joseph McKibbin was but six years of age when his parents came from Scotland to this country, the family settling in the state of Michigan. As a lad he left home and for three years thereafter followed the sea, engaged on sailing vessels on the Atlantic. He then left the sea and went to Michigan, where for some time he was engaged working in lumber camps. In the latter fifties he came to Iowa and bought a quarter of a section of land in Cedar county and was engaged in clearing and improving the same when

the Civil War broke out. He enlisted in one of the Iowa regiments of infantry and served with that command until the close of the war, attached to General Sherman's army, and was thus a participant in the memorable march through Georgia and from Atlanta to the sea, later participating in the Grand Review at Washington. During his military service, Joseph McKibbin was twice wounded, a bullet once striking him in the mouth and knocking out one of his teeth. He spat out both the tooth and the bullet and preserved them as souvenirs of the narrow escape from death. At another time he was wounded in the knee. Upon the completion of his military service, Mr. McKibbin returned to his farm in Cedar county, this state, and shortly afterward married Eliza Chase, a resident of that county, daughter of James Chase and wife, early settlers there. Completing the improvements on his farm, Mr. McKibbin developed a fine piece of property and there spent his last days, his death occurring in 1880, he then being forty-four years of age, leaving besides his widow four children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the third in order of birth, the others being Anna, who married William Gilsman, a farmer, now living in the state of Washington; Mary, who married Sylvanus Speed, a farmer, now living in Minnesota, and Libbie, who married Bert Dibbel, a Kansas farmer. Mrs. McKibbin later married Michael Schweitzberger, of Cedar county, a native of Germany, and continued to live in Cedar county until 1885, when she and her husband disposed of their interests there and moved to northwestern Kansas, where the latter took a homestead and there established a new home, both still living there. To that second marriage three children were born, Arthur, who is farming in eastern Kansas; Ernest, who is farming in Colorado, and Maude, who married Roy Van Pelt, a farmer, living in western Kansas.

William Sherman McKibbin, who was named by his father in honor of the latter's old general during the Civil War, received his early schooling in the schools of his home neighborhood in Cedar county and was but seven years of age when his father died. He remained at home, helping in the development of the place, until he was fourteen years of age, when he began working on cattle ranches in that neighborhood and was thus engaged for three years, at the end of which time he came over to this part of the state and began working as farm hand in Plymouth county and was thus engaged for another period of three years. He then bought a tract of eighty acres and after his marriage a year later established his home on the place. He improved the farm and there made his home for six years, at the end of which time he sold the place to advantage and bought a tract of eighty acres in section 34 of Lincoln township, Plymouth county, where he ever since has

made his home. When Mr. McKibbin bought his Lincoln township farm it was but slightly improved and there was a small house on the place. He immediately set about making further improvements and it was not long until he had one of the best-kept places in that neighborhood. One of his first steps in the way of improvement was the planting of an orchard and a grove of about eight acres, now one of the most attractive features of the place. As he prospered in his farming operations, Mr. McKibbin bought more land and now has a fine farm of three hundred and twenty acres, well improved and profitably cultivated; a comfortable residence and ample farm buildings, including two barns, one for cattle and one for horses, and a combined granary and corn crib having a capacity for three thousand bushels of small grain and four thousand bushels of corn. In addition to his general farming, Mr. McKibbin has given considerable attention to the raising of high-grade live stock and has done very well. His herd of Shorthorn cattle is headed by a registered sire and his Duroc-Jersey hogs are up to standard. Mr. McKibbin has always given his close attention to local civic affairs and is ever counted on as a promoter of all good causes in his community.

In 1894 William S. McKibbin was united in marriage to Hattie Peron, who was born in Plymouth county, daughter of William Peron and wife, early residents of this county, and to this union three children have been born, Leroy, born on April 17, 1896; Joseph, February 1, 1899, and Gladys, September 19, 1902. The McKibbins are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and take a proper interest in the various beneficences of the same, as well as in the general social activities of the community in which they live.

MATHIAS WERLEY.

Mathias Werley, a well-to-do retired farmer and large landowner of Elgin township, has been a resident of Plymouth county since the year 1882. He was born in Germany, in the grand duchy of Baden, in October, 1849, son of John and Rosa Werley, both natives of Germany, who spent all their lives in their native land. John Werley was a small farmer and he and his wife were the parents of two children, but the subject of this sketch was the only one of the family to come to this country.

Mathias Werley grew up as a farmer boy and was engaged in farm work during his young manhood. He was married early, at the age of nineteen, and he and his bride straightway took their departure from their

native land to the shores of America, coming over here in 1868. They located at Sterling, Illinois, and there they remained, engaged in farming in that vicinity, until they came to Iowa and settled in Plymouth county in 1882. Upon coming to this county, Mr. Werley bought a tract of one hundred and sixty acres in section 2 of Elgin township and there established his home, remaining there until a few years ago, when he moved onto the place of three hundred and twenty acres on which he now lives, being now the owner of four hundred and eighty acres of excellent land in that township. Mr. Werley is now living practically retired from the activities of the farm, having turned the management of the same over to his sons, and is taking things much easier than he did during the days he was engaged in developing his excellent farm plant. Mr. Werley is a Democrat and gives a good citizen's attention to local political affairs, but has never been included in the office-seeking class.

In 1868, just before his departure for America, Mathias Werley was united in marriage to Rosa Haberer, who also was born in Baden, and to this union six children have been born, John, Henry, Charles, William, Mathias and Clara. Henry Werley married Emma Siege; Charles Werley married Anna Franke and Clara Werley married Gerhart Lang. The Werleys are members of the German Lutheran church and take a warm interest in the affairs of the same, Mr. Werley having formerly been a member of the board of trustees of the church.

RICHARD JOHNSON.

Richard Johnson, a well-known and substantial retired farmer, now living in Le Mars, is a native of Germany, but has been a resident of this country since he was three years old, at which time his parents came to America, later settling in Plymouth county, where their last days were spent. Richard Johnson was born on March 12, 1854, son of Harm and Gepke (Miners) Johnson, also natives of Germany, who left their native land in 1857 and came to the United States, settling in Macoupin county, Illinois, where for a short time Harm Johnson followed his trade as a shoemaker, then moved to Montgomery county, same state, where he was engaged in farming until 1876, in which year he came to Iowa and settled in Plymouth county, where he and his wife spent the remainder of their lives, his death occurring in 1889 and hers some years previously. Upon coming to this



RICHARD JOHNSON AND FAMILY

county; Harm Johnson bought a farm of two hundred and forty acres of land in Grant township and there established his home. He and his wife were the parents of eight children, seven of whom are still living, those besides the subject of this sketch being Mrs. Fred Eilers, John, Edward, Mrs. Amos Crone, Charles G. and Michael.

Being but a child when his parents came to this country, Richard Johnson was reared on the home farm in Illinois and there grew to manhood. He came to Plymouth county with his parents and remained on the home farm in Grant township, a valued assistant to his father in the work of developing the same, until the spring of 1883, when he married and started out on his own resources. After his marriage Mr. Johnson returned to his boyhood home in Macoupin county, Illinois, and there remained, working a rented farm, for a couple of years, at the end of which time, in 1885, he returned to Plymouth county and rented a farm in Grant township, where he made his home for five years. He then bought a farm of two hundred and forty acres lying on the line, partly in this county and partly in Sioux county, paying for the same twenty-two dollars an acre, and there established his home. The place was practically unimproved when he took possession and all the valuable improvements on the well-kept farm have been made by him. In addition to his general farming, Mr. Johnson gave considerable attention to the raising of high-grade live stock and did very well. As he prospered in his undertakings he added to his holdings until he became the owner of a fine farm of six hundred and forty acres, one-quarter section of which lies in this county and the remainder over the line in Sioux county, and there he lived until his retirement from the farm in December, 1909, and removal to Le Mars, where he and his family are now very pleasantly situated, having a very comfortable home at 709 Howard street. Mr. Johnson is a Republican and during the time of his residence in Sioux county served for some time as trustee of Reading township. He and his family are members of the German Evangelical Lutheran church and during the time of his residence on the farm he for five years served as a member of the board of trustees of the church of that denomination in Grant township.

It was on March 15, 1883, that Richard Johnson was united in marriage to Tena Peneboon, daughter of William and Tena (Ackhoff) Peneboon, and to this union six children have been born, Herman, William, Michael, John, Kate and Marie. Herman Johnson married Eva Rabes and has one child, a daughter, Louise. William Johnson married Lena Onken

and has four children, Marvin, Irene, Myrtle and Bernice. Kate Johnson married the Rev. Fred Beitelspacher and has three children, Norma, Ruth and Martha.

FRANK VEIDT.

Frank Veidt, manager of the Atlas elevator at Merrill and former member of the council of that village, is a native son of Plymouth county and has lived here all his life. He was born on a pioneer farm in Liberty township on March 20, 1875, son of George and Emma (Efferding) Veidt, the former a native of Germany and the latter of Jackson county, this state, who became pioneers of Plymouth county and here spent their last days.

George Veidt was but a lad when he came to this country with his parents from Germany, the family settling on a farm near Sac City, Wisconsin, where he grew to manhood and where his parents died. As a young man he went over into Colorado and mined a claim on Cripple Creek for two or three years, at the end of which time he located at Galena, Illinois, where he engaged in the retail meat business and where he married, making his home there until the early seventies, when he returned to Iowa and with his family settled in Plymouth county, homesteading a tract of eighty acres in Liberty township. Eaten out during the grasshopper plague of 1876, Mr. Veidt moved with his family to Sioux City, where he worked in a meat market for a year or two and then returned to his homestead farm in this county, where he and his wife spent the rest of their lives. He prospered in his farming operations and later increased his land holdings to two hundred acres, becoming a very substantial citizen. He was active in the political affairs of the township, served for some time as a member of the board of supervisors and held other local offices. His wife died on the home farm in Liberty township on August 24, 1902, and he survived until December 20, 1907. They were the parents of nine children, of whom eight are still living, George, William, John, Henry, Frank, Lewis, Mrs. Emma Dennler and Amelia.

Frank Veidt was reared on the homestead farm in Liberty township, receiving his schooling in the neighborhood schools, and when twenty-one years of age rented the home place and operated the same for ten years. In April, 1907, he moved to Merrill, where he engaged in the hardware business and was thus engaged for seven years, at the end of which time he sold his place of business and became the manager of the Atlas elevator at that

place, a position which he ever since has held, one of the best-known grain men in this part of the state. Mr. Veidt is a Republican, as was his father before him, and has ever given his thoughtful attention to local civic affairs, for four years having served as a member of the village council at Merrill. He is a Scottish Rite Mason, a member of the Knights of Pythias and of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and in the affairs of these organizations takes a warm interest.

On September 1, 1910, Frank Veidt was united in marriage to Bessie Bray, a daughter of T. A. Bray, who died on February 2, 1912, leaving one child, a daughter, Lynette.

MATHEW R. FABER.

Mathew R. Faber, the well-known investment banker and real-estate broker at Remsen and the organizer of the Farmers and Merchants Bank and the First National Bank of that city, was born in Remsen and has lived there all his life. He was born in 1877, a son of Michael and Anna Marie Faber, natives of Luxemburg and pioneers of Plymouth county, both now deceased, the former having died in 1903 and the latter in 1907.

Michael Faber and his wife came to this country with their respective parents in the days of their youth and were married at Dubuque, this state, in 1870, straightway afterward locating at a country place called Lakeport, on the Black Hills trail out of Yankton, South Dakota, where they conducted an inn. During the time they were there they for two days boarded Gen. George Custer, who, with seven hundred men, was encamped in that vicinity on his way to the Hills. In the fall of 1871 Michael Faber and his wife disposed of their inn and returned to Iowa, settling in Plymouth county, where they spent the remainder of their lives. About 1895 they retired from their pioneer farm near Remsen and moved to Remsen, where their last days were spent. They were among the early settlers of Plymouth county and were compelled to endure all the privations and hardships which confronted the pioneers hereabout at an early day in the settlement of this region, including the grasshopper devastations and the great snow storm of 1880. In 1903, when Mathew R. Faber organized the First National Bank of Remsen, Michael Faber was elected president of the bank and was holding that position at the time of his death not long afterward. He and his wife were the parents of two sons, the subject of this sketch having an elder brother, Frank M. Faber, also of Remsen.

Mathew R. Faber received his elementary education in the common schools at Remsen and supplemented the same by a course of two years at the Normal School at Le Mars, after which, before he was twenty years of age, he became connected with the banking business at Remsen and has ever since been thus engaged, for many years having been regarded as one of the strongest figures in the financial life of this part of the state. Mr. Faber organized both the Farmers and Merchants Bank and the First National Bank at Remsen, but of late years has given his chief attention to his extensive personal interests in the way of investment banking and real estate, operating at Remsen with a capital of one hundred thousand dollars. For the past ten years or more Mr. Faber has been the secretary of the Remsen Commercial Club and in that capacity, as well as in other ways, has done much to advance the general interests of the community in which he lives. Mr. Faber is married and has a very pleasant home at Remsen. His wife, who was born Emma Wagner, also was born at Remsen and has lived there all her life, a daughter of Charles G. and Mary (Arens) Wagner, early residents of that community.

ANDREW ZWEIFEL.

Andrew Zweifel, a well-known and substantial farmer of Lincoln township, this county, is a native of the republic of Switzerland, but has been a resident of this country since he was nineteen years of age. He was born in the city of Glarus, capital of the canton of that name, March 21, 1869, son of Joseph and Catherine Zweifel, natives of that same country, who spent all their lives there, the former of whom died about 1874 and the latter in 1879.

Joseph Zweifel was a son of Joachim Zweifel, a factory workman, and was himself a skilled workman. He and his wife were members of the Lutheran church and their children were reared in that faith. There were nine of these children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the eighth in order of birth, the others being Johannes, Anna, Fritz, Katherine, Jacob, Mary, Joachim and Joseph. Of these children Fritz, Jacob, Joachim, Andrew and Joseph came to the United States and made their permanent home here.

Andrew Zweifel was nineteen years of age when he came to this country, arriving on April 17, 1888. For six years thereafter he was engaged working on farms in Allegheny county, Pennsylvania, and then came West, settling in Missouri, where he worked as a farm hand for a couple of years,

at the end of which time he came up into Iowa, locating in Plymouth county in 1896. Here he became engaged in farming and two years later married and a couple of years later, in 1900, bought the farm of one hundred and seventy acres in sections 30 and 31 of Lincoln township, where he ever since has made his home and where he and his family are very comfortably situated. Four years ago he erected a new residence and the other improvements on the place are in keeping with the same, the farm being very well improved and profitably cultivated.

It was on July 1, 1898, that Andrew Zweifel was united in marriage to Minnie Heimgartner, who was born at Joliet, Illinois, July 14, 1879, daughter of Albrecht and Amelia (Kowalkie) Heimgartner, who came to Plymouth county in 1881 and settled on a farm in Lincoln township, where Mrs. Heimgartner died in 1892 and where Mr. Heimgartner is still living, one of the substantial pioneers of that part of the county. To Mr. and Mrs. Zweifel seven children have been born, Laura, Albert (deceased), Ethel, Madelina and Adelina (twins) and Amanda and Wanda (twins). The Zweifels are members of the German Lutheran church in Lincoln township and take a proper interest in the various beneficences of the same, as well as in the general social activities of the community in which they live, helpful in promoting all good causes thereabout.

IRA T. MARTIN.

The late Ira T. Martin, for years one of the best-known lawyers in this part of the state as well as one of the best-known and most influential citizens of Le Mars, was a native of the neighboring state of Wisconsin, born in Racine, April 18, 1848, son of Phineas and Phoebe J. Martin, both natives of the state of New York, where they were married and where they remained until 1846, in which year they came West and located at Racine, where Phineas Martin followed his trade as a carpenter until his death during the cholera epidemic of 1854. His widow survived him many years, her death occurring in 1880. They were the parents of four children, the subject of this memorial sketch having had three sisters, Mrs. Lydia Ives, Mrs. Emma Lund and Mrs. Helen Judson.

Reared at Racine, Ira T. Martin received his common-school education in the schools of that city and supplemented the same by a course in Western College at Cedar Rapids, upon the completion of which he entered the

law office of C. T. Crafts at Cedar Rapids and after a rigorous course of reading there was admitted to the bar, at Montezuma, this state, in 1874. Thus equipped for the practice of his profession, Mr. Martin opened an office at Brooklyn, this state, and following his marriage in 1876 established his home there, remaining in practice at that place until 1883, in which year he located at Le Mars, forming there a partnership for the practice of law with F. M. Roseberry, which mutually agreeable arrangement continued until Mr. Roseberry moved to Remsen. Mr. Martin then practiced alone until he presently formed a partnership with Frank Gaynor, the firm later admitting George C. Scott, and that partnership continued until Mr. Scott moved to Sioux City and Mr. Gaynor was appointed to a position on the bench of the Iowa supreme court. Some time later Mr. Martin admitted his son, Herbert Martin, into partnership in his practice and that arrangement continued until the time of the death of the senior member of the firm on December 24, 1907.

From the beginning of his residence in Le Mars, Ira T. Martin took an active and earnest interest in all movements having to do with the advancement of the general welfare of the community. He was an ardent Republican, but was not a seeker after public office, his efforts in behalf of the common good being exerted in other ways. For years he was a member of the local library board and was largely instrumental in advancing the movement which resulted in securing from Andrew Carnegie a donation which made possible the erection of the present handsome library building at Le Mars. Mr. Martin also was for years president of the local Chautauqua Association and in that connection was able to do much toward the general promotion of the community's cultural activities. He was an active member of the local post of the Grand Army of the Republic, having been an honored veteran of the Civil War, a private at the age of fifteen years in Company B, Ninth Iowa Cavalry, serving from the time of his enlistment until the close of the war with that command, and at one time and another held almost all the offices in the post. In other ways Mr. Martin exerted his powers and his talents in behalf of the general welfare hereabout and his passing in 1907 was widely mourned, for he was a good citizen.

On July 2, 1876, at Malcom, in Poweshiek county, this state, Ira T. Martin was united in marriage to Jennie M. Ray, who was teaching school in that vicinity, and to this union one child was born, a son, Herbert Martin, now a well-known and influential attorney at Le Mars. Mrs. Martin, who survives her husband and who is still living at Le Mars, having a very pleasant residence at 1417 Franklin street, was born in the state of Vermont on

December 12, 1847, daughter of John and Mary (Livingston) Ray, the former a native of Scotland and the latter of Canada, who were married in Canada, later moving to Vermont, where they spent the remainder of their lives. John Ray was a veteran of the Civil War, having served during that struggle in a Vermont regiment, and he and his wife were the parents of four children, those besides Mrs. Martin being John, Agnes and Kate. Jennie M. Ray received an excellent education in her Vermont home and as a young woman came to this state to join the corps of teachers then being urged to volunteer for teaching service here and was teaching near Malcom when she met Mr. Martin, their marriage following not long thereafter.

JACOB E. LADENTHIN.

Jacob E. Ladenthin, a well-known and substantial farmer of Lincoln township, this county, is a native of Germany, but has been a resident of this country since he was eight years of age. He was born on March 1, 1875, son of John and Margaret (Porch) Ladenthin, natives of that same country, who came to the United States in 1883, proceeding directly to Iowa and locating in Plymouth county, where they spent the remainder of their lives.

Upon coming to this county in 1883 John Ladenthin bought a farm in Lincoln township and there established his home, gradually developing a fine piece of property, and there he and his wife spent the rest of their lives, his death occurring on July 16, 1911, and hers in 1913. They were members of the Lutheran church, active in the affairs of their home church in Lincoln township, and their children were reared in that faith. There were five of these children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the fourth in order of birth, the others being Susie, John, Elizabeth and Anna.

As noted above, Jacob E. Ladenthin was about eight years of age when his parents came to this country and settled in Plymouth county and he grew to manhood on the home farm in Lincoln township. He received his schooling in the district school in the neighborhood of his home and from boyhood was a valued assistant to his father in the labors of the farm. Upon reaching manhood he began farming on his own account and is now the owner of a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres in section 12 of Lincoln township, where he and his family are very comfortably situated.

In 1913 Jacob E. Ladenthin was united in marriage to Louise Krause, who also was born in Germany, and to this union four children have been

born, Willie, Ella, Walter and Herbert. Mr. and Mrs. Ladenthin have a very pleasant home and take an interested part in the general social activities of their home neighborhood. Mr. Ladenthin gives proper attention to local civic affairs and has served his district as school director.

JOBE KENNEDY.

One of Plymouth county's well-known and successful business men is Jobe Kennedy, manager and secretary of the Plymouth creamery and cashier of the Bank of Brunsville. He was born at Sherman, Sheyboygan county, Wisconsin, October 22, 1868, and is a son of Samuel and Amy Kennedy, natives of Ireland and England, respectively. The father emigrated to America when he was twenty-one years old, locating at Brooklyn, New York, but after working there a short time he came to Sheyboygan Falls, Wisconsin, where he engaged in general merchandising eight years with his brother, after which he went to Plymouth, that state and followed farming a few years; then moved to Shell Rock, Iowa, where he engaged in the creamery business for two years, then spent eight years in Plainfield, Iowa, and three years in Superior, Wisconsin, where he followed the real-estate business, after which he went to Mason City, Iowa, where he was in the creamery business four years, after which he sold out and has since lived in retirement at Clear Lake, this state. His family consists of the following children: Robert, Jobe, Kenneth, Joseph, Annie, Fern, and Samuel.

Jobe Kennedy, who is the only member of his family living in Plymouth county, completed his public schooling in the high school at Plainfield, Iowa, then attended a business college in Burlington, from which he was graduated, after which he returned to Plainfield and, in partnership with his brother, bought a store, which he operated two years, then bought eggs for two years; then moved to Mason City and engaged in the creamery business four years with his father, moving from there to Hampton, this state, where he followed the same business until 1889, in which year he came to Plymouth county, taking charge of the Grant township creamery at Mammen, which position he held for fourteen years, at the end of which time he located in Brunsville and was active cashier of the Bank of Brunsville until 1915, when he became manager and secretary of the Plymouth Creamery Company, which position he still holds. Mr. Kennedy is an expert



MR. AND MRS. JOBE KENNEDY

in the creamery business and has been very successful in all the positions he has held in that line.

In 1892 Jobe Kennedy was married to Anna Roberts and to this union three children were born, of whom but one, Carlyle, now survives, the others having died in infancy. Carlyle Kennedy is a member of Company K, Second Regiment, Iowa National Guard, and in the summer of 1916 was sent with that command to the Mexican border. Mr. Kennedy is a Republican and while living in Grant township served as secretary of the school board. He also served for some time as town clerk of Washington township. Fraternally, he belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, to the Modern Woodmen of America and to the Woodmen of the World. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

P. S. TRONSRUE.

P. S. Tronsrue, a well-known and enterprising young druggist of Hinton, this county, is a native of the neighboring state of South Dakota, but has lived in Iowa since he was a child. He was born in Charles Mix county, South Dakota, January 29, 1887, son of L. O. and Elizabeth (Thoreson) Tronsrue, the latter a native of Wisconsin. The father was born in Norway and died when the subject of this sketch was five years of age; the mother is now living, retired, at St. Paul, Minnesota.

L. O. Tronsrue was about five years of age when his parents came to this country from their native Norway and settled on a farm in Palo Alto county, this state, where he grew to manhood and where he married Elizabeth Thoreson. After his marriage he moved over into South Dakota and there began farming in Charles Mix county, but about two years later returned to this state, settling down again in Palo Alto county, where he began working for a hardware company. He moved thence to Inwood, in Lyon county, and was there engaged in the hardware business for ten years, at the end of which time he moved to St. Paul, where he is now living retired. To L. O. and Elizabeth (Thoreson) Tronsrue two sons were born, P. S., the subject of this biographical sketch, and G. M., who is now connected with the Tri-State Telephone Company at St. Paul. Following the death of the mother of these sons L. O. Tronsrue married Edith Hopkins, which union has been without issue.

P. S. Tronsrue completed his common-school education in the schools

of Inwood and then entered Highland College at Des Moines, from the pharmacy department of which institution he was graduated and in 1908 passed the state examination and became a licensed pharmacist. He then engaged in the drug business at Inwood, in a partnership, under the firm name of Tronsrue & Bucknam, and was thus engaged for four years, at the end of which time, in 1912, he disposed of his interests at Inwood and moved to Hinton, this county, where he opened a drug store and where he ever since has been thus engaged in business, handling a complete and up-to-date line of drugs and druggist's sundries. He owns a comfortable home at Hinton and he and his family are very pleasantly situated.

On January 4, 1911, P. S. Tronsrue was united in marriage at White, South Dakota, to Edna Smith and to this union one child has been born, a daughter, Phillis Edna, born on April 12, 1914. Mr. and Mrs. Tronsrue are members of the Presbyterian church at Inwood, but since taking up their residence at Hinton have been attending the Methodist Episcopal church there. Fraternally, Mr. Tronsrue is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and of the Modern Woodmen of America and in the affairs of both of these organizations takes a warm interest.

FRANK W. RICHARDSON.

Frank W. Richardson, a substantial farmer of Lincoln township, this county, is a native of the great Empire state, but has been a resident of this part of Iowa since the year 1894. He was born at Onconta, in Otsego county, New York, May 28, 1869, son of Egbert and Zilpha (Rowland) Richardson, natives of that same state.

Egbert Richardson also was born at Onconta, son of Daniel Richardson and wife, and there spent all his life. During the Civil War he served as a soldier of the Union, a member of the One Hundred and Twenty-second New York Cavalry. To him and his wife were born five children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the second in order of birth, the others being Taber, who also is a resident of Iowa, and Jay, Bernard and Nellie.

Frank W. Richardson was reared at Onconta, New York, receiving his schooling in the schools of that city, and remained there until he was twenty-five years of age, when he came West, locating in the neighboring county of Woodbury, in this state, where he married in 1900 and where he remained until 1914, in which year he disposed of his interests in that county and

moved up into Plymouth county, buying his present fine farm of two hundred and forty acres in section 24 of Lincoln township, where he has since made his home and where he and his family are very pleasantly situated.

In 1900 Frank W. Richardson was united in marriage to Willie Elma Stillwell, of Woodbury county, this state, and to that union five children have been born, Weston, Anita, Cecil, Raymond and Reed. Mr. Richardson has a very pleasant home in Lincoln township and though a comparatively recent resident of that community takes an earnest interest in the general affairs of the neighborhood, interested in all movements having to do with the advancement of the common welfare thereabout.

Mrs. Richardson died April 23, 1911, and was buried in Arlington cemetery, near Merville, Iowa.

FRANK J. DRECKMAN.

Frank J. Dreckman, one of the leading farmers of America township, is a native of the state of Illinois, but has been a resident of this county since he was seven years of age. He was born on a farm in La Salle county, Illinois, in May, 1872, son of Frank and Elizabeth (Heubrock) Dreckman, natives of Germany, who came to this country with their respective parents and settled in La Salle county, Illinois, where they were married and where they made their home on a farm until 1879, when they came to Iowa and settled in Stanton township, this county, where Frank Dreckman spent the rest of his life.

Upon coming to this county Frank Dreckman bought a farm of eighty acres in Stanton township and there established his home, becoming recognized as one of the substantial residents of that part of the county. He was a Democrat and took a good citizen's part in the public affairs of his neighborhood. His death occurred on that farm in April, 1904, he then being seventy-six years of age. His widow is now making her home with her eldest son, the subject of this sketch. The elder Frank Dreckman and his wife were members of the Catholic church and their children were reared in that faith. There were five of these children, those besides the subject of this sketch being as follow: Annie, who married Carl Deters and lives in Canada; Katie, who married Frank Determan, a farmer of Elgin township, this county; Bernard H., who is farming the old home place in section 9 of Stanton township, and John A., a farmer of America township.

As noted above, Frank J. Dreckman was but seven years of age when his parents came to this county from Illinois in 1879 and he grew to manhood on the home farm in Stanton township, receiving his schooling in the public and parochial schools. He remained at home until his marriage at the age of twenty-four, after which he began farming on his own account and for two years operated a farm in section 9 of Stanton township. He then moved to a farm in section 28 of America township and two years later moved to Murray county, Minnesota, where he farmed for two years, at the end of which time he returned to this county and bought the old home place in section 9 of Stanton township, where he remained five years, at the end of which time he moved to his present place, the old Nicholas Hoffman farm in section 3 of America township, where he since has made his home, now being the owner of two hundred and thirty-five acres of well-improved and profitably cultivated land. In addition to his general farming, Mr. Dreckman has given considerable attention to the raising of high-grade live stock, Shorthorn cattle and Duroc-Jersey hogs, and has done very well. In his political views he is independent.

Mr. and Mrs. Dreckman have ten children, Joseph, Rosie, Leo, Philhelmina, Cecelia, Harry, Angeline, Christina, Conrad and Armald, who received their schooling in the public schools and in the Catholic parochial schools at Le Mars. Mrs. Dreckman was born in Dubuque county, this state, Mary Deters, daughter of Bernard Deters and wife. The Dreckmans are members of St. Joseph's Catholic church at Le Mars and take a warm interest in the affairs of that parish as well as in the general social movements of their neighborhood.

CHARLES F. KANNOV.

Charles F. Kanno, a well-known and well-to-do retired farmer now living at Hinton, proprietor of "Honey Hollow Farm," one mile due west of that village and formerly and for years one of the best-known millers in that part of the county, is a native of Germany, but has lived in this part of Iowa since the days of his childhood. He was born near the city of Berlin on October 16, 1856, son of August and Charlotta (Bandt) Kanno, natives of that same country and the latter of whom became a pioneer of Plymouth county, where her last days were spent.

August Kanno was a garden farmer, living near the city of Berlin, the son of August Kanno. He died there in 1859, leaving a widow and

four children of whom the subject of this sketch was the third in order of birth, the others being Alexander, for many years engaged in the railway service, now a foreman on the Union Pacific road at Omaha, Nebraska; A. A., a miller at Beatrice, Nebraska, and Henrietta, now living at Hinton, widow of Lewis Winter, formerly a well-known Plymouth county farmer. In 1865 the Widow Kanno and her children accompanied her father, John Bandt, and family from Germany to the United States, the family settling at Ponca, Nebraska, where John Bandt followed his trade as a maker of harvesting cradles, and there she married Frank Hoese, who had come to the United States with his parents from Germany in 1848. Shortly after their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Hoese crossed the river and came over into Plymouth county and here Mrs. Hoese spent the rest of her life, her death occurring in October, 1902, she then being seventy-six years of age. Frank Hoese was a miller and upon locating in this county nearly fifty years ago started a mill and was engaged in the milling business for thirty-seven years, having had a mill in the neighborhood of Hinton and at other points in the county. He is now living retired at Minneapolis, Minnesota. To him and his wife four children were born, Otto, Amanda, Elizabeth and Anna, all of whom are living save the last-named.

Charles F. Kanno was about four years old when he came to this country with his mother and grandfather and his schooling was completed in the schools of this county, he having been but a lad when he came over to this county from Nebraska when his stepfather settled here. Under the direction of the latter he learned the milling business and followed that line for eighteen years. In 1883 he bought a tract of one hundred and sixty acres in section 8 of Hungerford township and began to develop the same. After his marriage in 1895 he established his home there and continued to live there until his retirement from the farm and recent removal to Hinton, where he owns a residence and where he and his family are very comfortably situated, meanwhile, however, continuing in ownership of his well-developed "Honey Hollow Farm" west of the village, to the management of which he continues to give more or less of his personal attention.

On May 8, 1895, Charles F. Kanno was united in marriage to Mrs. Elizabeth (Finnegan) Barrett, widow of Edward Barrett, who by her first marriage is the mother of six children, Libbie, Edward, Mary, Willie, Harry and Amy. Mr. Kanno is a member of the German Lutheran church and Mrs. Kanno of the Catholic church. They take a proper interest in church affairs, as well as in the general social activities of the community.

PETER KNUDSEN.

The United States has become a great cosmopolitan nation, with representatives of the various nations of the earth. Here they have established homes, entered into the spirit of American institutions, and have been most important factors in the development of the great natural resources. The great farming sections of the country have undergone wonderful transformations during the past few years, and to these foreign-born citizens much is due for the development and improvement that have taken place. The little Kingdom of Denmark has given some of her best men and women to the United States, and wherever they have settled, they are found to be progressive, industrious and prosperous. Among the number who came here when a young man, is Peter Knudsen, a well-to-do farmer of Garfield township, Plymouth county, who was born on July 14, 1860, being the son of Peter and Anna (Gjersen) Knudsen.

Peter and Anna Knudsen were also natives of Denmark and there spent the greater part of their lives. They were educated in the schools of that country and were there married and their family born. The father was born in the year 1824 and as a young man engaged as a sailor, which he followed for many years. He made his home in his native land until 1883, when he and his wife came to the United States to join their daughter, Hannah, the wife of Lewis Larson, in Cuming county, Nebraska. After a residence there of three years, they came to Plymouth county, to visit another daughter, Mrs. H. Clausen, when the father died in 1886. The widow is now living with her son, Peter, past the age of ninety-six years. They were the parents of the following children: Jerry, Michael, Katheline, Hannah, Mary and Peter. Jerry, Hannah and Mary are now deceased. The family were active members of the Danish Lutheran church and were held in high regard by all who knew them.

Peter Knudsen received his education in the schools of Denmark and remained a resident of that country until he was seventeen years of age, when in 1876, he came to America. He landed at the port of New York and proceeded at once on his journey to Illinois, where he remained a few months, and then to Crawford county, Iowa, where he worked on a farm for six years. He later spent three years on a farm in the northwestern part of the state, and in 1888 he came to Plymouth county. For six years he rented the farm which he now owns, from the owner, who lived in England.

On July 5, 1885, Peter Knudsen was united in marriage to Anna Paul-

sen, who was born in 1858. To this union the following children have been born: Andrew, Peter, Anna and Rosa. Andrew, who now rents his father's farm, was born on June 21, 1886, and is married to Vera Pirs, and to them two children have been born: Howard and Thelma; Peter married Alma Lesner and they are the parents of one child, Jane, and their home is at Kingsley; Anna is the wife of C. A. Rathburn, of Kingsley, and Rosa is deceased.

Mr. Knudsen's farm of one hundred and sixty acres, which is located in section 33, is one of the best-developed and well-improved places in the township. The land is in a high state of cultivation and the buildings are well kept. He is a man of sound judgment and much ability, and has won for himself many friends and admirers, because of his progressive spirit and business-like methods. For eight or nine years he served his township as trustee, which position he now holds. The duties of the office receive the same careful attention that Mr. Knudsen gives to his own business affairs. He has devoted his life to the interest of farming, and is now recognized as one of the prosperous and successful general farmers and stock men of the township, where he and his family are held in the highest regard and esteem by all who know them.

JOHN WETRORSKY.

The late John Wetrorsky, one of the honored pioneers of Plymouth county, who died at his home in Lincoln township on February 12, 1912, was a native of the kingdom of Bohemia. There he married Anna Vondruska, a native of that same country, and in 1874 came with his wife and children to the United States and proceeded on out too Iowa, settling in Plymouth county, where he spent the rest of his life and where his widow is still living.

Upon coming to this county John Wetrorsky bought land in sections 3 and 4 of Lincoln township and there established his home, becoming one of the most substantial pioneer farmers of that part of the county. To him and his wife six children were born, Mary, Frank, Anna, Joseph, Josephine and John, with the latter of whom the widow is now making her home. John Wetrorsky renting the old home farm from his mother, besides which he is farming a hundred acres of his own.

The junior John Wetrorsky was born on the old home farm, where

he now lives, October 12, 1878, and received his schooling in the schools of this county. He was reared on the farm and has been a farmer all his life and is doing very well, in addition to his general farming giving considerable attention to the raising of high-grade live stock.

On January 10, 1905, John Wetrorsky, Jr., was united in marriage to Ida Dahlman, daughter of Lewis Dahlman and wife, of this county, and to this union four children have been born, Viola, Ludwig, Agnes and Ada. Mr. and Mrs. Wetrorsky are members of the German Lutheran church and take a proper interest in the affairs of the same, as well as in the general social activities of the community in which they live, helpful factors in the promotion of all worthy causes thereabout.

JOHN SCHROEDER.

John Schroeder, a well-known and well-to-do retired pioneer farmer of Marion township, this county, is a native of Europe, but has been a resident of this county since 1880. He was born on a farm in the grand duchy of Luxemburg in January, 1844, son of John Nicholas and Margaret Schroeder, also natives of Luxemburg, who spent all their lives there. Of their children, the subject of this sketch was the only one who came to the United States. He received his schooling in the schools of his native land and remained there engaged in farming until the year 1880, when he came to this country, proceeding directly on out to Iowa and locating in Plymouth county, where he ever since has made his home and where he long has been recognized as one of the county's most substantial pioneer residents.

Upon coming to Plymouth county, John Schroeder bought a quarter of a section of land in Marion township, paying for the same five or six dollars an acre, and after his marriage the next year established his home there. As he prospered in his general farming operations he added to his quarter section until he became the owner of two hundred acres, which he farmed until his retirement from the active labors of the farm in January, 1914, since which time the home place has been conducted under the management of his youngest son, Joseph Schroeder, who makes his home there.

It was in 1881 that John Schroeder was united in marriage to Helen Treinen, a daughter of Nicholas Treinen and wife, and to this union five



MR. AND MRS. JOHN SCHROEDER

children have been born, namely: Margaret, who married J. B. Bruscher, of Marion township, a biographical sketch of whom is presented elsewhere in this volume; John P., a farmer in Marion township, who married Mary Loutsch and a biographical sketch of whom also is presented elsewhere in this volume; Nicholas, unmarried, who remains at home; Joseph, who is now farming the old home place, and Mrs. Mathias Feller, also of Plymouth county. The wife and mother passed away in 1892 and was buried at Remsen, in St. Mary's cemetery.

Joseph Schroeder was born on April 7, 1889, and received his schooling in the district school in the neighborhood of his home and in the Catholic parochial school at Remsen. From the days of his youth he was a valuable assistant to his father in the labors of the home farm and has spent all his life there. In January, 1914, when his father retired from the management of the home place, Joseph Schroeder assumed the same and has since been successfully managing the farm, now farming two hundred and forty acres and doing very well. In addition to his general farming he is giving considerable attention to the raising of live stock and feeds annually about one hundred head of hogs. Mr. Schroeder is a Democrat, as is his father, and both take a warm interest in local civic affairs. On January 27, 1914, Joseph Schroeder was united in marriage to Clara Hanson, a daughter of Anton and Mary Hanson, and established his home on the old homestead. The Schroeders are members of the Catholic church at Remsen and take a proper interest in parish affairs, as well as in the general social activities of the community in which they live.

ALBERT KOWALKE.

Albert Kowalke, one of the well-known and successful farmers of Lincoln township, Plymouth county, was born in Pomerania, Germany, on October 5, 1868, being the son of William and Wilhelmina Kowalke.

William and Wilhelmina Kowalke were also natives of Germany, and there they were educated in the public schools and grew up and were married. After their marriage, they continued to live in Germany until 1875. They then decided to come to America, where they might make a home for themselves and their family. After a long voyage they landed at Boston, and at once proceeded to Joliet, Illinois. It was here that they first settled in the

United States, and there William Kowalke was employed in the rolling mills for three years. In 1881 they decided to leave their home in Illinois and come to Iowa. On their arrival in this state, they located in Plymouth county, and here William Kowalke secured a farm in section 11, Lincoln township. The tract at that time, was for the most part undeveloped and unimproved, and required much hard work to make it one of the ideal farms of the community. The family endured many of the hardships of pioneer life that were common to that section in those days. A house and other buildings were erected, and at once Mr. Kowalke began the task of development and improvement. He soon had a part of the land ready for cultivation, and in time became one of the prominent and successful farmers of the township. As a general farmer and stock man he was recognized as one of substantial farmers of the township. It was on this original farm that he made his home until the time of his death in 1912. His wife and the mother of his children died in 1906.

William and Wilhelmina Kowalke were active members of the German Lutheran church and always took much interest in church work. They were prominent in the early social life of the community, and had much to do with the pioneer church work. They were among the number who established the first German Lutheran church in the township, and had much to do with its success and growth. They were the parents of the following children, Amelia, Minnie, Tena and Albert. Their lives were devoted to the interests of their family, and in well-being in the vicinity in which they lived, and where they were held in the highest regard and esteem by all who knew them. Mr. Kowalke took much interest in local affairs and his advice and influence were often sought relative to the affairs of the township and the county. His life was a most active one and he accomplished much, that was worthy of the emulation of all.

Albert Kowalke received his education in the public schools of Illinois, where he came with his parents, when he was but seven years of age, from his home in Germany. He was but thirteen years of age when his parents came to Plymouth county, and here he grew to manhood, and as a lad and young man he assisted his father with the work on the farm. His early training was most proficient and he was soon impressed with the principles of industry and economy. Above all he was taught the principles of successful farming and stock raising, and early in life decided to become a farmer. There was little in the life of the farmer, or the stock man, that he did not learn; when a boy on his father's farm.

In 1894 Albert Kowalke was united in marriage to Bertha Jahn, and to

this union the following children were born, Walter, Clarence, Herman, Lawrence, Otto, Edward, Albert, Arnold and Edna. In addition to their own children, Mr. and Mrs. Kowalke have adopted a girl, Vera, whose former home was at Ft. Dodge. Mr. and Mrs. Kowalke are active members of the German Lutheran church and have long been prominent in the social and the religious life of the community, where they are held in the highest regard and esteem by all who know them. They have ever taken much interest in the moral and the social development of the district, and their influence has been most keenly felt in the homes and in the community generally. They are most hospitable people and they take much pleasure in the entertainment of the friends and their neighbors. They take the greatest interest in the children and the young people of the district, and have ever been prominent in the promotion of schools and the social side of life.

Albert Kowalke began life on a small scale, but by hard work and close economy, he is today the owner of three hundred and sixty acres of the best of land. Two hundred acres of his land is in section 11, Lincoln township, eighty acres in section 13 and eighty acres in section 24. The farms are all in the highest state of cultivation and well improved, the improvements having been placed by him. He has always believed in the principle of intensive farming and the keeping of the best of stock.

Albert Kowalke has always taken a keen interest in local affairs and has had much to do with the progress and the growth of the township. For fourteen years he was township clerk and served for many years as road supervisor.

GEORGE H. BENDER.

Some farmers attribute their success to the particular kinds of crops they grow, or to a particular way in feeding live stock. More likely, their success is due to a good-sized farm business, good or average crops, and a superior quality of live stock. Such seems to be the idea of George H. Bender, of Hungerford township.

Mr. Bender was born in Lee county, Illinois, November 21, 1865. He is a son of Christian and Eva (Gerhart) Bender. The father was born in Germany, from which country he came to America when young with his parents, the family locating in Lee county, Illinois, where the parents died, after which Christian Bender came to Plymouth county in 1868 and here engaged successfully in farming, spending the rest of his life here, dying

in 1909 at the advanced age of eighty-two years. His widow is living in Le Mars. He owned a half section of good land in Hungerford township. To these parents the following children were born: Mary, who is the eldest; George H., of this sketch; Emma was next in order; J. C. is pastor of the Evangelical church at Clinton, Minnesota; F. W. lives in Sioux City, Iowa. The father of these children was a Republican and he took much interest in the affairs of his township and county. He was an active member of the United Evangelical church.

George H. Bender grew to manhood on the farm and he received his education in the common schools of Plymouth county. In 1894 he married Elizabeth Blecker, a daughter of August Blecker. To this union the following children were born: Claribel and George Dewey.

George H. Bender has lived on the farm which he now occupies since he was three years old. It came into his possession about eighteen years ago. He has kept the place well improved and has carried on general farming and stock raising successfully. Most of the improvements now on the place were made by him. He raises Shorthorn cattle and a mixed grade of hogs.

Mr. Bender is a Republican in politics. He has served as township trustee for about twelve years, and as treasurer of the local school board for about twenty-two years. He belongs to the United Evangelical church. Melbourne. He has long been active in the affairs of his township.

J. W. PRATT.

J. W. Pratt, one of the substantial, well-known and influential farmers and stock men of Elkhorn township, Plymouth county, was born in Lafayette county, Wisconsin, on February 7, 1859, the son of George and Ann (Row) Pratt.

Thomas Pratt and wife, the paternal grandparents of J. W. Pratt, were natives of England, where they were educated, grew up and were married and there their family was born. They continued to live in their native land for many years, later coming to the United States. On their arrival in this country they located in Lafayette county, Wisconsin, where the grandfather purchased a small tract of land, and there he and his wife lived until the time of their deaths some years ago. They were active members of the Methodist Episcopal church and took the greatest interest in all church work.

George and Ann (Row) Pratt were also natives of England, and there

received their education in the public schools, grew to manhood and womanhood and were married. For some time after their marriage, they continued to live in the land of their birth. They later decided to come to America, where they might make a home for themselves and their family. After their arrival in the United States they at once proceeded to Wisconsin where they located on a small farm in Lafayette county, and there the father engaged in farming, until the time of his death in 1864, at the age of thirty-five years. His wife survived him until 1906. They were the parents of the following children, Thomas, Mary Ann, Martin, Elizabeth, J. W., George and John. Thomas, Martin, Elizabeth, George and John are now deceased. After the death of her husband, Mrs. Pratt was united in marriage to James Hillery, and to this union two children were born, Jane and Margaret Ann. Mr. Hillery died some years later and his widow was later married to W. M. Dent, but to this union no children were born.

J. W. Pratt received his education in the public schools of Lafayette county, Wisconsin, and there grew to manhood. He and his brother owned one hundred and sixty acres of land in that county, which they farmed in partnership. J. W. Pratt later came to Plymouth county, where he located on a farm in Elkhorn township.

On January 27, 1890, J. W. Pratt was united in marriage to Jane Bainbridge, whose family history is given on another page of this work, under the caption of Joseph Bainbridge. To Mr. and Mrs. Pratt have been born the following children, G. A., J. O., James H., Walter E., Buella May and Jennie Bell. The children are all married with the exceptions of Walter and Buella May, who are now at home with the parents. Mr. and Mrs. Pratt are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, but for the most part attend the United Brethren church, near their home. They have long been prominent in the church social life of the community, where they are held in the highest regard by all. They are substantial supporters of the church and are strong advocates of the best possible schools.

Since coming to the county, Mr. Pratt has been most successful in his work as a general farmer and stock man. He is now the owner of four hundred and eighty acres of land in Plymouth county, his home being in section 9, Elkhorn township. In addition to his land holdings in this county, he is the owner of two hundred and eighty-five acres in Woodbury county, Iowa, and eighty-three acres in South Dakota. Since coming to the county, Mr. Pratt has placed all the substantial buildings on his farm. His farm home is one of the attractive places of the township, and his farms are all in a high state of cultivation.

Mr. Pratt has always taken an active interest in local civic affairs, and has had much to do with the official life of the township. He has served as assessor, school director, road supervisor and trustee of his township. He has always given the same careful attention to his official duties, that he has to his own affairs, and by his business-like conduct while in office has won the confidence and the respect of all. Fraternally, Mr. Pratt is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America.

WILLIAM MUECKE.

William Muecke, one of Lincoln township's most substantial farmers, assessor of that township and former justice of the peace, is a native son of Iowa, born in Sioux City on July 1, 1870, son of Frederick and Christine Muecke, who came to this country from Germany in the spring of that same year and located at Sioux City, whence a few months later they came up into Plymouth county, settled on a farm in Hungerford township, where they spent the remainder of their lives, both dying on the same day in September, 1898.

Frederick Muecke became a substantial pioneer resident of Hungerford township and the owner of a considerable tract of land in that township and in the adjoining township of Lincoln. Upon coming to this county in the fall of 1870 he bought a homestead right in Hungerford township and there established his home, taking a prominent part among the early settlers of that section in the labors of developing that part of the county. He and his wife were members of the German Lutheran church and their children were reared in that faith. There were seven of these children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the last-born, the others being August, Augusta (deceased), Herman, Pauline, Julius and Henry.

William Muecke was but an infant when his parents came into this county from Sioux City and he grew to manhood on the pioneer farm in Hungerford township. Upon completing the course in the district schools in the neighborhood of his home, he took a course in a business college at Sioux City and then returned to the farm and has ever since been actively engaged in farming, now the owner of a fine farm of three hundred and thirty-nine acres in sections 5 and 8 of Lincoln township, where he is very well established and where he and his family have a very comfortable home. Mr. Muecke has ever given a good citizen's attention to the civic affairs of

his home community and has been assessor of Lincoln township ever since 1902. He also served for some time as justice of the peace in and for that township and in other ways has given of his time and his energies to the public service. In addition to his general farming Mr. Muecke has paid considerable attention to the raising of high-grade live stock and has done very well in that line.

In 1892 William Muecke was united in marriage to Anna Hildebrand, of this county, and to this union five children have been born, Carl, Lillie, Walter, Frank and Agnes, deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Muecke are members of the German Lutheran church and take a proper interest in the affairs of the same, as well as in the general social activities of the community in which they live, ever helpful in promoting all worthy causes thereabout.

FRANK RAY.

Frank Ray, who was for many years one of the prominent and well-known farmers and stock men of Elkhorn township, Plymouth county, was born in Jo Daviess county, Illinois, in 1851, and died at his home in Plymouth county on December 21, 1914. He was the son of Samuel and Mary Ray, who were farmers of Illinois, where they lived for many years. They later came to Plymouth county, to make their home with their son, Frank. He was an active member of the Presbyterian church and she of the Brethren church. Samuel and Mary Ray were the parents of three children, Margaret, Anna and Frank.

Frank Ray received his education in the public schools of Illinois and there grew to manhood and married Lena Michel who was born in Germany on August 20, 1853. She is the daughter of Balser and Margaret (Dickel) Michel. The parents were also natives of Germany and later came to the United States, locating in Carroll county, Illinois, where they lived until after the marriage of Frank and Lena Ray, when they came to Iowa in 1886 and settled in Plymouth county.

Frank and Lena Ray were the parents of five children, Cora, George, Nettie, Emma and Ella, all of whom are married, but George.

At the time Mr. Ray came to Plymouth county, he bought land six miles south of Kingsley, in Woodbury county, where he and his family lived for five or six years before they came to the farm where the widow now lives. This farm of one hundred and sixty acres of splendid land is located

in section 7 and is in a high state of development and well improved. The buildings are all good and substantial and well cared for. Mr. and Mrs. Ray were always prominent members of the Brethren church and had much to do with the high standard of moral and social living in the township. Mr. Ray, while being a man who had much to do with the betterment of the community, had but little to do with political life, and never aspired to office. He devoted his life to the interests of his farm and home. He took great pleasure in his home life and was most considerate of the interests of his wife and children. To be with his family, about the family hearth, meant more to him than any political favor or social distinction. His manly and Christian life had won for him many friends, who held him in high regard, and his death was mourned by all who knew him.

Since the death of Mr. Ray, the widow and the son, George, have been looking after the interests on the place, and they give it the same close care and attention that was given it by the late Mr. Ray.

LOUIS SCHMITZ.

Louis Schmitz, a well-known and progressive farmer of Plymouth county, the owner of a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Marion township, is a native of the Hoosier state, born in the city of Evansville, Indiana, May 19, 1870, son of Professor Schmitz and wife, natives of Germany, the former of whom was a widely-known instructor in his day, who had come to this country ten years before and who spent their last days in this country.

Prof. Frank Henry William Schmitz was a native of the principality of Lippe-Detmold, born on May 28, 1826. He received an excellent education, being well trained for the duties of an instructor of youth, and married Bertha Caroline Leideking, who also was born in Lippe-Detmold, November 14, 1836. In 1860 Professor Schmitz and his wife came to the United States and settled in Franklin county, Missouri, where the professor was for some time engaged as an instructor, later moving to southern Indiana, where he was engaged in school work in Posey county and as a teacher in the high school at Evansville, later filling teaching engagements in other parts of Indiana and in some of the Southern states, finally locating at Metropolis, Illinois, where he spent his last days, dying at an advanced age. His wife had long preceded him to the grave, her death having

occurred at Union, Missouri, in 1875. Professor Schmitz and wife were the parents of six children, of whom the subject of this sketch and his twin sister, Almira, now deceased, were the last-born, the others being as follow: Albert, born on July 14, 1858, who became a successful physician and died in Kansas City; Helen, May 7, 1860, widow of George Grantner, of St. Louis, Missouri; Charles Edward, March 27, 1862, a machinist at St. Louis, and Anna, May 9, 1866, now living at Union, Missouri. Professor and Mrs. Schmitz were members of the Lutheran church and their children were reared in that faith.

Bereft of his mother when he was but five years of age, Louis Schmitz was taken into the household of Rudolph Krueger when a lad and lived there for some years, later becoming a member of the household of Rudolph Krueger's brother, Fred Krueger, where he remained three years, at the end of which time, on March 8, 1895, at Des Moines, he enlisted as trumpeter in Troop K, First United States Cavalry, for a term of three years. He joined his troop at Ft. Grant and after three months of service there was transferred to Ft. Riley, where he completed his term of service on March 8, 1898. Upon his return to Iowa he worked at various forms of employment for a year, at the end of which time he came to Plymouth county, locating at Remsen, where he was married early in 1902, after which he rented a farm in Fredonia township, three miles north of Remsen, and there established his home, remaining there for seven years, at the end of which time, in 1909, he bought a quarter section in section 2 of Marion township and there has ever since made his home, he and his family being very pleasantly and very comfortably situated. Mr. Schmitz built a fine house on his place and has made other substantial improvements. In addition to his general farming he is giving considerable attention to the raising of high-grade live stock and is doing very well in his farming operations. Mr. Schmitz is a Republican and gives a good citizen's attention to local civic affairs, but the only public office he ever has held is that of constable, in which capacity he served in his home township for some time.

It was on February 25, 1902, that Louis Schmitz was united in marriage to Marie Letsche, who was born in Undingen, in the kingdom of Wurtemberg, daughter of Jacob and Marie (Hermann) Letsche, natives of that same kingdom, who came to the United States with their family in 1895 and settled on a farm in Remsen township, this county, Jacob Letsche buying a quarter of a section of land there, and there he farmed until his retirement from the active labors of the farm in 1910. To Jacob Letsche and wife five children were born, of whom Mrs. Schmitz was the third in

order of birth, the others being as follow: Martin, a farmer of Henry township; Herman, who is farming in Cherokee county, this state; George, who is living on the old home place in Remsen township, and Gotthilf, also living on the home place. To Mr. and Mrs. Schmitz four children have been born, namely: Albert W., born on November 24, 1904; Elsie, April 16, 1906; Andrew, September 10, 1908, and Louis, September 26, 1913, who died on August 8, 1916. Mr. and Mrs. Schmitz are members of the German Evangelical Lutheran church at Remsen and take a proper interest in the various beneficences of the same, as well as in the general social activities of the community in which they live.

FINLEY HEARN.

Finley Hearn, one of Garfield township's substantial and progressive farmers, former trustee of that township and since pioneer days actively identified with the interests of that section of the county, is a native of the Keystone state, but has been a resident of Iowa since he was but a child and of Plymouth county since the early eighties. He was born at Huntington, Pennsylvania, March 23, 1853, son of Thomas and Margaret (Hopple) Hearn, whose last days were spent in Iowa.

Thomas Hearn was a native of Ohio, but early moved to Pennsylvania, where he married and where he made his home in Huntington until 1855, in which year he came with his family to Iowa and settled in Scott county, where he bought a farm and where he and his wife spent the remainder of their lives, the death of the latter occurring in 1882. They were members of the German Lutheran church and their children were reared in that faith. There were nine of these children, those besides the subject of this sketch having been Jacob, Jane, Catherine, John, Margaret, Nancy, William and Emma, all of whom are still living save Jane, Margaret and William. John Hearn, mentioned above, is a veteran of the Civil War, having served for three years as a member of the Twentieth Regiment, Iowa Volunteer Infantry. Thomas Hearn died in Davenport in 1855.

Finley Hearn was but two years of age when his parents moved from Pennsylvania to Iowa and he grew to manhood on the home farm in Scott county, this state, receiving his schooling in the schools of that county, and remained at home engaged in the labors of developing the farm, until his marriage in 1882, after which he began farming on his own account. He

previously had come over to Plymouth county and had bought land in section 24 of Garfield township and there made his home until 1884, when he bought the farm on which he is now living, in section 22 of that same township, and has ever since made his home there, he and his family being very comfortably and very pleasantly situated. Mr. Hearn owns four hundred acres of excellent land and his farms are well improved. In addition to his general farming, he has given considerable attention to the raising of live stock and has done very well. From the very beginning of his residence in this county Mr. Hearn has given his thoughtful attention to local civic affairs and has served as trustee of Garfield township, as treasurer of the township and as a member of the school board, in which latter capacity he is still acting. Fraternally, he is a member of the Masonic fraternity and of the Modern Woodmen of America and in the affairs of both of those organizations takes a warm interest.

On September 8, 1882, Finley Hearn was united in marriage to Isabella J. Grieve and to this union six children have been born, namely: Francis, who attended Cornell University, now of Pierson, in the neighboring county of Woodbury; Thomas, Hazel, Ray, at the State College of Agriculture at Ames, and Helen and Ralph, at home. The Hearn family are members of the Congregational church at Kingsley and take a proper part in church work, as well as in the general social activities of the community in which they live, helpful factors in the promotion of all movements having to do with the advancement of the common welfare thereabout.

ALEX McARTHUR.

Alex McArthur, a well-known and successful farmer and stockman of Elgin township, Plymouth county, was born in Ontario, Canada, on April 29, 1867, being the son of Nathaniel and Fannie (McKerlin). McArthur, the former a native of Scotland and the latter of Canada, their last days having been spent in the United States where they were honored and respected citizens.

Nathaniel McArthur was born in Dumfriesshire, Scotland, and there received his primary education. He was but a lad when his parents left their home and came to Canada, landing at Quebec. The family located on a farm in that country and there Nathaniel grew to manhood and was later married. In 1873 he with his family came to Iowa and established a home on a farm

in Jackson county, where they remained until 1885, when the father disposed of his interests and moved to Plymouth county, settling on a farm in section 14, Elgin township, where he and his wife spent the remainder of their days. Mr. McArthur died on September 28, 1891, at the age of seventy-four years; and his widow survived him until April, 1916, when she died at the age of eighty-five years. They were members of the Presbyterian church and their children were reared in that faith. They were the parents of seven children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the last born, the others being as follow: Sarah, who married Alfred Chaffee, of Van Buren county, Iowa; John, who married Mary Dixon and lives at Paola, Kansas; Daniel, who married Clara Marks and lives at Sheldon, Iowa; Mary, who is the wife of Herbert Dickison and lives in Oklahoma; William, who married Laura Smith and lives at Sioux City; Alexander, who married Anna Lancaster and is a resident of Elgin township, Plymouth county, and Duncan, who lives in Elgin township. Mr. and Mrs. McArthur took a keen interest in the social and the religious life of the community, and had much to do with the high moral standard of the district in which they lived and where they were held in the highest regard and esteem by all who knew them. Their lives were dedicated to the interests of their family and the good that they might do in the vicinity of their home. Their deaths were mourned by the residents of the township, for all knew that they had lost good and worthy people.

Alex McArthur received his education in the schools of Jackson county, Iowa, where he came with his parents in 1871 at the age of four years. He grew to manhood on the home farm and as a lad and young man assisted his father with the farm work. After completing his school work, he engaged in the butcher business, at Sioux City and at Struble and remained in the work for eighteen years. He then engaged in farming on a rented farm near Seney, Iowa, where he remained for one year, when he came to his present place, where he operates two hundred and forty acres of land. Each year he cultivates some one hundred and thirty acres of corn and eighty acres of small grain. He sells most of the products of the farm and also raises many good cattle and hogs, and is recognized as one of the successful men of the district.

In 1890 Alex McArthur was united in marriage to Anna Lancaster, the daughter of W. C. Lancaster and wife, well known residents of the community. To this union three children have been born as follow: Ray, Irvin and Melvin. Mr. and Mrs. McArthur are active members of the Presbyterian church and are prominent in all church work and the social life of the

township. Mr. McArthur is associated with the Republican party and while he is ever interested in the civic life of the district, he does not aspire to office.

HENRY A. HEIMGARTNER.

Henry A. Heimgartner, one of the well-known and successful farmers of Lincoln township, Plymouth county, Iowa, was born in section 11, of the township, and is the son of Albrik and Amelia (Kowalke) Heimgartner.

Albrik Heimgartner was born in Switzerland, and was the son of Bartholomew and Margaret (Schibli) Heimgartner. The parents were also natives of Switzerland and there received their education in the public and parochial schools, grew up and were married. It was in that country that their children were born and there the parents lived and died. The father engaged in farming and was recognized as one of the influential men of the neighborhood in which he lived. They were devout members of the Catholic church and always took much interest in church work. They were the parents of ten children, three of whom came to America, Leodegar, Robert and Albrik.

Albrik Heimgartner received his education in the schools of his native land and there grew to manhood. He was born on August 13, 1851, and remained in the land of his nativity, until the year 1872, when he decided to come to America. After having landed at the port of New York, he remained in that state for a few months, where he worked as a laborer, and later came to Chicago, Illinois, where he worked at the carpenter trade for a time. He then worked as a farm hand, fifty miles south of Chicago, for seven years. Here he was married, and later he and his wife came to Iowa. They arrived in Plymouth county in January, 1881, and soon thereafter, purchased one hundred and twenty acres of land in section 11, Lincoln township. This far they developed and improved and there Mr. Heimgartner engaged in general farming and stock raising, until some years ago. After the death of his wife he retired from the activities of farm life and has since made his home with his children.

On coming to the county, Albrik Heimgartner made his first purchase of one hundred and twenty acres of land. As he began to prosper he increased his land holdings, and during his active life was the owner of four hundred and forty acres. He and his family have long been active members of the German Lutheran church and are prominent in all church and social activi-

ties of the community. Mr. Heimgartner has also taken much interest in the civic life of the township and served as a member of the school board and as trustee of the township.

Albrik Heimgartner was united in marriage to Anna Kurt, and they were the parents of one child that died in infancy. The wife and mother died later and Mr. Heimgartner was married to Amelia Kowalke, the daughter of William and Wilhelmina Kowalke, both of whom were natives of Germany. Mr. and Mrs. Kowalke received their education in the public schools of their native land. They continued to live in the land of their birth until 1875, when they decided to come to America. On their arrival in the United States, having landed at Boston after a long voyage, they proceeded to Joliet, Illinois, where Mr. Kowalke was employed for three years in the rolling mills. In 1881 they came to Iowa, where they located on a farm in section 11, Lincoln township, Plymouth county. The farm at that time was for the most part undeveloped and unimproved and much hard work was required to convert the wild prairie land into well-cultivated fields. A house was at once erected, and the task of development begun. In time the farm became one of the ideal places in the township, and Mr. Kowalke was recognized as one of the substantial and influential men of the community. It was on this farm that he and his wife resided until the time of their deaths, she having died in 1906 and he in 1912.

William and Wilhelmina Kowalke were active members of the German Lutheran church and always took much interest in all church work and were prominent in the social activities of the district. They were among the number who established the first German Lutheran church in the township, and had much to do with the future success and growth of the local organization. They were the parents of the following children: Amelia, Minnie, Tena and Albert.

Albrik and Amelia Heimgartner were the parents of the following children: Minnie, Mary, Ida, Rosie, Henry, Edward, Amanda, Frances, Walter and Agnes, deceased. Amelia Heimgartner died in 1892, and some years later Mr. Heimgartner was united in marriage to Mary Schomacher, but to this union no children have been born.

Henry A. Heimgartner received his education in the public schools of Lincoln township, and here grew to manhood on the home farm, where as a lad and young man he assisted his father with the farm work. In 1912 he was united in marriage to Katherine Voegeli, and to this union two children have been born, Albrik and Reuben. Mr. Heimgartner owns forty acres of land in section 13, but operates in addition to his own farm, two hundred

acres of his father's in the same section. He has made many improvements on his own place, and is now building a beautiful modern house. He is engaged in general farming and stock raising, and has been most successful. He and his wife are active members of the German Lutheran church and are prominent in the social and the religious activities of the community. Mr. Heimgartner has always taken a keen interest in local affairs and has served for the past four years as trustee of his township.

JOSEPH BAINBRIDGE.

Joseph Bainbridge, a well-known and prominent retired farmer of Elkhorn township, Plymouth county, was born in Lafayette county, Wisconsin, on December 25, 1856, being the son of George and Sarah (Low) Bainbridge.

George and Sarah Bainbridge were natives of Durham, England, and there received their education in the public schools and later married. Some years after their marriage they decided to come to America, where they might have a better chance of making a home for themselves and those dependent upon them. For a time they located at New Digens, Wisconsin, where the father did mining and some little farming. In 1862 they left their home in Wisconsin and came to Iowa and located at Shelsburg, where they had a farm of eighty acres. Here he engaged in mining in the winter and did farming during the summer months. After a residence here of eighteen years Mr. Bainbridge came to Plymouth county in 1880, settling in section 9, Garfield township, where he owned three hundred and twenty acres, engaging in general farming and kept some fine stock, until 1891, when he retired to Kingsley, where he died in 1897. Mr. and Mrs. Bainbridge were the parents of the following children: Ralph, Joseph, Jane, Sarah, George, Mary, John, Elizabeth, William, Margaret and Frank, all of whom are living with the exception of Ralph. They were active members of the Methodist Episcopal church and were held in high regard.

Joseph Bainbridge received his education in the local schools of Wisconsin and was married in 1881 at the age of twenty-five years to Elizabeth Pratt, who died two years later, on March 1, 1883. There were no children by this marriage, and some years after the death of Elizabeth Bainbridge, Mr. Bainbridge was united in marriage to Margaret Pratt, a first cousin of his first wife. To this union four children have been born, Elizabeth, Mary,

Bertha and Joseph E. Elizabeth and Mary married brothers, the former is the wife of M. P. Stephens and the latter the wife of Frank Stephens; Bertha married Mert Kelso and Joseph E. is at home.

Joseph Bainbridge first came to Iowa with his parents, and remained here for a year, when he returned to Wisconsin, where he was engaged in mining for six years. He then returned to Plymouth county and purchased his farm in March, 1880. His first purchase was of eighty acres in section 9. Elkhorn township, but with his years of successful farming and stock raising he is now the owner of four hundred acres of the best of land. His successful life has not been an accident, for he has been a hard worker, an economical and a good manager, and suffered many hardships and privations in his early struggle for existence. He has now retired from the activities of the farm and rents the place to his children.

Fraternally, Mr. Bainbridge is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Modern Woodmen of America.

BARTHEL RUBA.

Barthel Ruba, a well-known and substantial farmer of Plymouth county and the owner of a fine farm of two hundred and eighty acres in Marion township, is a native of Austria, but has been a resident of this country since he was twenty-one years of age. He was born on March 19, 1857, son of John and Barbara Barthel, also natives of Austria, farming people, who spent all their lives in their native land. They were the parents of seven children, five of whom are still living, those besides the subject of this sketch being John Ruba, of Remsen, this county; Joseph Ruba, of Le Mars, Mrs. Frank Holtzman and Mrs. Barbara Gabel.

Reared on a farm in his native land, Barthel Ruba received his schooling there and remained at home until he was twenty-four years of age, when, in 1880, he came to the United States and proceeded on out to Iowa, arriving in Plymouth county with but three dollars, the sum total of his monetary possessions. For six years after coming here Mr. Ruba worked as a farm hand in this county and then he bought a farm of eighty acres in Marion township, paying for the same nineteen dollars and seventy-five cents an acre. The place was practically unimproved and he had to break the sod on the most of it. Two years later he married and established his home on his farm and there has lived ever since, long having

been regarded as one of the most substantial farmers in that part of the county. As he prospered he added to his holdings until now he is the owner of a fine farm of two hundred and eighty acres, on which he engages in general farming, in addition to which he gives considerable attention to the raising of live stock, feeding about one hundred and fifty head of hogs a year, and is doing very well. Mr. Ruba is a Democrat and has given close attention to local civic affairs ever since coming to this county, but has never been a seeker after office.

It was in 1888 that Barthel Ruba was united in marriage to Mary Kettel, daughter of John Kettel and wife, and to this union seven children have been born, namely: Nicholas, who married Kate Loutsch and has one child, a son, Irving; Mary, who married Nicholas Weiler and has one child, a daughter, Armella, and Kate, Elizabeth, Barthel, Frank and John P., who are at home with their parents. The Rubas are members of the Catholic church at Remsen and take a proper interest in parish affairs, Mr. Ruba having formerly been a member of the board of trustees of the same. He is a member of the Society of St. Boniface and takes an active interest in the affairs of that organization.

J. W. CAMPBELL.

Many of the successful and patriotic citizens of the United States are natives of Ireland, the land that has given us so many of our wits, orators, statesmen. During the Revolutionary period of our country, there were no more patriotic and determined people than they, and again was their patriotism manifested in the war for the preservation of the Union. Among the successful farmers, of Irish birth, who have settled in Iowa, may well be mentioned the name of J. W. Campbell, who was born on December 22, 1864, being the son of Samuel and Mary (Wilson) Campbell, both of whom were natives of Scotland and England, respectfully, but who moved to Ireland.

Samuel Campbell received his education in his native land and there grew to manhood and worked as a farm hand. As a young man he came to the United States, locating in the state of Pennsylvania, where he worked for some time, after which he returned to his native country, where he remained for some years. He later brought his family to this country and

established his home at Homer, Illinois, where he operated a farm of one hundred and sixty acres with success, until the time of his death a number of years ago. Mr. and Mrs. Campbell were the parents of five children as follow: Mary, Hugh, Margaret, J. W. and Samuel, all of whom are living with the exception of Margaret.

J. W. Campbell received his education in the local schools of Illinois and there assisted his father with the work on the farm, until he was twenty-one year of age, when he decided to come to the state of Iowa. For two years after coming to the state he resided at Ireton and then came to Kingsley, where he has since lived. Some years after coming to the county, he was united in marriage to Grace Hit, and to this union two children have been born, Wilson and Wesley.

In 1906 Mr. Campbell purchased his present farm of one hundred and twenty acres, which is located in section 30, and in the corporation of Kingsley. In addition to his home farm he also owns one hundred and sixty acres of land near Wichata, Kansas. He is engaged in general farming and stock raising and keeps some fine cattle and Duroc-Jersey hogs. His farm is well cultivated and nicely improved. His splendid house was built in 1907, and the location is ideal, being situated on a hill which overlooks the town of Kingsley.

Fraternally, Mr. Campbell is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, belonging to the blue lodge and chapter at Kingsley, Knights Templars at Le Mars and the Scottish Rite at Sioux City.

ROBERT W. MECKES.

Each man who strives to fulfill his part in connection with human life and human activities is deserving of recognition, no matter what may be the field of his endeavor, for it is interesting to note the varying conditions that have compassed those whose careers are brought to the attention of the readers of history. One of the enterprising young business men of Plymouth county is Robert W. Meckes, a lumber dealer, of Hinton.

Mr. Meckes was born in Northampton county, Pennsylvania, August 27, 1891, and is a son of William and Savannah (Hankee) Meckes, who are still living in Northumberland county, Pennsylvania. The father is a slater by trade. Besides the subject of this sketch he has but one other child—Alverta.

Robert Meckes grew up in his native county and there attended the common schools and the high school. On January 27, 1913, he married Selby Waibe. To Mr. and Mrs. Meckes one child has been born—Bernice.

Mr. Meckes is now manager of the S. H. Bowman lumber yards, of Hinton. Three years ago he accepted a position in the office as assistant manager, which position he held until early in 1915, when he was appointed manager. He has discharged his duties in a manner highly acceptable to his employers. This is the oldest lumber yard in Hinton and has long enjoyed a large and growing business, having been established about twenty-five years ago. Mr. Meckes was a railroad telegraph operator for two years in his earlier career, being located at Hinton, Iowa, for the Illinois Central Railroad Company. He took a course in the telegraphy school at Lebanon, Pennsylvania, after which he came to Chicago, where he took a four weeks' course in the Illinois Central Telegraphy School.

Mr. Meckes belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America. He attends the Methodist Episcopal church at Hinton, although he holds his membership in the Evangelical Lutheran church.

JOHN BAINBRIDGE.

Among the well-known and successful farmers of Elkhorn township, Plymouth county, is John Bainbridge, who was born in Lafayette county, Wisconsin, on July 29, 1867, being the son of George and Sarah (Low) Bainbridge.

The parents of John Bainbridge were born in England and were there educated in the public schools, and after reaching manhood and womanhood were married, and continued to live in the land of their nativity for some time. They later came to the United States, locating for a time at New Dicens, Wisconsin, where Mr. Bainbridge engaged in mining and did some farming on a small scale. They continued to reside in New Dicens until 1862, when they came to Iowa and purchased a farm of eighty acres near Shelsburg. Here the father continued his work in the mines in the winter and engaged in farming during the summer months. They resided in this section of the state for eighteen years, and then in 1881 came to Plymouth county. A farm was purchased in section 9, Garfield township, and general farming and stock raising were followed with success. Before his retirement in 1891, Mr. Bainbridge was the owner of three hundred and twenty acres of

excellent land, all well developed and improved. On his retirement from the activities of farm life he moved to Kingsley, where he died in 1897. Mr. and Mrs. Bainbridge were the parents of the following children: Ralph, Joseph, Jane, Sarah, George, Mary, John, Elizabeth, William, Margaret and Frank, all of whom are living with the exception of Ralph. They were members of the Methodist Episcopal church and were prominent in all religious work, and were held in the highest regard and esteem.

John Bainbridge received his education in the public schools of Wisconsin and there grew to his majority. On March 12, 1888, he was united in marriage to Anna Row and to this union the following children have been born: George William, Nellie, John, Ray, Sadie, Joseph, Etta and Anna. George William and John are married.

When Mr. Bainbridge came to Iowa he located on a farm in Elkhorn township, west of his present home, where he lived for fifteen years. Eight years ago he came to the farm where he now lives, and is engaged in general farming and stock raising on his seven hundred and forty acre tract in this township. His farm is under a high state of cultivation and well improved. His buildings are all substantial and his house is one of the finest in the township. Mr. and Mrs. Bainbridge are members of the United Brethren church and are prominent in the social life of the district. Mr. Bainbridge has always taken a deep interest in the educational requirements of the township and has served on the local school board.

WILLIAM F. MANDELKOW.

William F. Mandelkow, one of Plymouth county's best-known citizens, former member of the village council at Struble and for years engaged in business in that village, but now very pleasantly situated on his fine farm in Elgin township, adjoining the village of Struble, is a native of Germany, born in the Prussian province of Pommern, April 30, 1870, son of William and Minnie Mandelkow, both native Pommeranians, whose last days were spent in this country.

William Mandelkow was a wagon-maker and followed that trade in his home country until he came to this country in 1878, when he engaged in carpentering. Upon coming to the United States, William Madelkow settled with his family at Bloomington, Illinois, where he remained about six months at the end of which time he came to Iowa and located at Le Mars, where for

a year he was engaged as a carpenter. He then moved onto a rented farm in Elgin township, this county, and for four years worked that farm, thus securing a start toward the purchase of a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Grant township, upon which he made his home for five years, at the end of which time he bought the whole of section 8 in Elgin township. He presently sold forty acres of that section to the promoters of the Struble township, the village of Struble now being located on that tract, and rented out a part of the remaining six hundred acres, he and his sons operating the remainder. On that farm William Mandelkow remained until his retirement from the activities of the farm and removed to the village of Struble, where he spent his last days, his death occurring in 1904 at his home in Struble. William Mandelkow and his wife were the parents of four children, the subject of this sketch having two brothers, Herman and John, and a sister, Minnie, who married C. W. Wilde, of Struble.

William F. Mandelkow was but seven or eight years of age when he came to this country with his parents and he completed his schooling in the district schools of Grant township, this county. From the days of his boyhood he was a valued assistant to his father in the work of improving and developing the home farm and remained at home until his marriage, at the age of twenty-four, when he began farming on his own account, renting a farm of his father, and was thus engaged for five years, at the end of which time he moved to Struble and there engaged in the livery business and was thus engaged for seven years. He then for some time operated the telephone exchange and later engaged in running a rooming house at Struble, continuing until January 1, 1916, since which time he has been giving his attention to his farm of two hundred acres near the village of Struble, on which, in addition to his general farming, he is engaged in raising hogs. Upon returning to the farm Mr. Mandelkow began the erection there of one of the finest country homes in Plymouth county and the same is now completed, a strictly modern house of eight rooms, of attractive architecture and stucco finish. He also has set out several hundred evergreen trees about the place and has a beautiful lawn. The outbuildings of the farm plant are in keeping with the residence and the place is regarded as one of the best in that part of the county. Mr. Mandelkow is a Republican and for some time during his residence in Struble was a member of the village council and also served as a member of the school board.

Mr. Mandelkow has been twice married. In 1894 he was united in marriage to Anna Bach, daughter of John Bach and wife, and to that union two children were born, Minnie and Emerson. The mother of these children died

in 1899 and Mr. Mandelkow later married Rose Pech, a daughter of F. Pech and wife, and to this union one child has been born, a daughter, Ruth Fern. The Mandelkows are members of the German Lutheran church and take a proper interest in the affairs of the same, as well as in the general social activities of the community in which they live.

GEORGE FARRELL.

George Farrell, a well-known and well-to-do retired farmer of Plymouth county, now living at Le Mars, one of the most substantial citizens of that place, was born on a farm in Cook county, Illinois, west of the city of Chicago, January 23, 1857, son of George and Margaret Farrell, both natives of Ireland, the former born in County Mayo and the latter in County Meath, whose last days were spent in Illinois.

The elder George Farrell spent most of his boyhood in England and there learned the tailor trade. When a young man he came to this country and for a time followed his trade at Chicago, presently traveling south, continuing to follow his trade as a journeyman for several years, at the end of which time he returned to Ireland and was married there. He then returned to America with his wife, locating at Chicago, where he engaged in the livery business for about eight years, at the end of which time he moved to a farm about forty-eight miles west of that city, established his home there and there both he and his wife spent the remainder of their lives. They were the parents of twelve children, eight of whom are still living, those besides the subject of this sketch, who is the youngest, being Mrs. Mary Jane Keegan, Thomas, S. A., John, James, Robert and Andrew.

The younger George Farrell was reared on a farm and received his schooling in the schools of Kane county and DeKalb county, Illinois. Upon completing his schooling he engaged in farming with his father and was thus engaged until his marriage in 1880, when he began farming on his own account in Kane county, three years later taking the management of a large farm owned by Doctor Winslow, near Aurora, Illinois. Two years later he rented a farm and operated the same for two years, at the end of which time, in 1885, he and his wife came to Iowa, locating in Plymouth county. Upon coming here Mr. Farrell rented a farm in Union township and there made his home for three years, after which he moved over into Cherokee county and there for five years made his home on a rented farm. He then, in 1893,

returned to Plymouth county, bought a tract of two hundred and forty acres of land in Union township, paying for the same thirty-five dollars an acre, and there established his home, he and his wife continuing to reside there until their retirement from the farm and removal to Le Mars, where they are now living, very pleasantly and comfortably situated. During his residence on his Union township farm, Mr. Farrell did much to improve and beautify the place, bringing his well-known "Evergreen Farm" up to a high standard of cultivation and making it one of the model farms in that part of the county. He spent about seven thousand dollars in the way of improvements on the place and as he prospered in his operations added to his holdings until now he is the owner of three hundred and twenty acres of choice land and is recognized as one of Plymouth county's most substantial citizens. Not only was Mr. Farrell a good farmer during the days of his activity on the farm, but he was one of the best stockmen in the county, giving such attentive care to the raising of his cattle that his stock always was certain of bringing the top of the market in the Chicago or Sioux City yards.

On January 1, 1880, George Farrell was united in marriage to Mary Keegan, daughter of Daniel and Kate Keegan. Mr. Farrell is a Democrat and takes a good citizen's interest in local political affairs, but has never been an aspirant for public office. He is a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and takes a warm interest in the affairs of that organization.

W. E. CODY, M. D.

Dr. W. E. Cody, a well-known practicing physician at Merrill, is a native son of Iowa and has lived in this state all his life. He was born at Sioux City and received his elementary education in the public schools of that city, being a graduate of the high school there. Early dedicating his life to the profession of medicine he entered the medical department of the University of Iowa some time following the completion of his high-school course and in due time was graduated from that excellent institution.

For a year after receiving his degree, Doctor Cody served as house surgeon at the college and then located for the practice of his profession at Kingsley, where he remained until in June, 1914, when he moved to Merrill and there took over the practice of Doctor Walcott, who was retiring at that time. During his residence at Merrill Doctor Cody has gained the

confidence of the entire community and has built up a large and lucrative practice. Ever since he has entered upon the practice of his profession the Doctor has kept abreast of advances made in modern practice and takes a warm interest in the deliberations of the Plymouth County Medical Society, of the Iowa State Medical Association and of the American Medical Association, with all of which organizations he is affiliated. During his college life Doctor Cody was one of the most active members of the Sigma Chi fraternity, with the affairs of which he ever since has retained an affectionate connection, and served as president of that fraternity. He is a member of the Masonic fraternity and also of the Knights of Pythias and of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and in the affairs of these several organizations takes a proper interest. During his residence at Merrill Doctor Cody has given a good citizen's attention to local public affairs and is regarded as a helpful factor in the promotion of the best interests of that village and of the community at large, ever willing to aid in the extension of all worthy movements thereabout.

JOHN N. THILL.

John N. Thill, a well-known and successful farmer and stockman of Marion township, this county, was born in Grant county, Wisconsin, on January 11, 1878, the son of Matthew and Lena Thill, who were born in the grand duchy of Luxemburg, and who came to America in the days of their youth and settled in Grant county, Wisconsin, where they were later married. After their marriage they located on a farm in that county and there Matthew Thill engaged in farming until 1880, when he and his family came to Plymouth county, making the trip, with a three-horse team. On their arrival in this county, Matthew Thill purchased two hundred and forty acres of land in Marion township, paying for the same six dollars an acre. The tract at that time was all wild prairie and without improvements. Mr. Thill at once built a small house and sod barn and began the task of breaking the prairie sod, preparatory to the planting of his grain. He planted a fine grove and was actively engaged as a general farmer and stock raiser. There he devoted his life earnestly to the development and improvement of his farm for four years, or until his death in the year 1884. Some years after the death of Matthew Thill his widow married



JOHN N. THILL AND FAMILY

John Gengler and John N. Thill made his home with his mother and step-father until his marriage at the age of twenty-three years.

John N. Thill received his early education in the public schools and was the only one of the family that continued school work in the parochial school at Le Mars. Upon the completion of his school work he engaged in farming, and at the age of twenty-three years was united in marriage to Josephine Mayrose, the daughter of Joseph and Catherine (Mormans) Mayrose. Joseph Mayrose is one of the well-known and substantial farmers and stockmen of Marion township and the owner of a fine farm of three hundred and forty-five acres. He is a native of Germany, where he lived until he was sixteen years of age. Joseph Mayrose was born in the duchy of Oldenburg on April 20, 1855, and is the son of Christopher and Catherine (Schohle) Mayrose, both natives of the same grand duchy, farming people, who came to America in 1871 and located in Iowa. Here the father rented a farm in Delaware county, where the family lived for seven years, at the end of which time they came to Plymouth county and settled on a farm in Marion township, where they lived until the time of their deaths some years ago. They were active members of the Catholic church and their children were reared in the faith. They were the parents of three children, Joseph, Caroline and Bernhard.

Joseph Mayrose received a little schooling in his native land and at the age of sixteen, in 1871, a short time before his parents came to this country, he sailed for America. He first located at Cincinnati, but there he remained but a short time, going thence to Kentucky, where he worked as a farm-hand for some time and later came to Iowa, locating in Dubuque county, where he again worked as a farm hand and where he was married. Soon after his marriage he and his wife came to Plymouth county, where they have since resided. Here he rented a farm, on which he remained for three years, at the end of which time he purchased a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in section 10 of Marion township and there he established his home. He is now the owner of three hundred and forty-five acres and is recognized as one of the most substantial and influential farmers of the township.

In 1876 Joseph Mayrose was united in marriage, in Delaware county, this state, to Catherine Mormans and to this union eleven children have been born, all of whom are living, as follow: Josephine, Catherine, J. B., Joseph C., Frank, Edward, Mary, Anna, Albert, Adolph and Isadore. These children received their education in the local schools and Adolph supplemented his school work by a course in Trinity College at Sioux City.

After his marriage, John N. Thill established his home on his father's old homestead, which he now owns, and on which he has spent ten thousand dollars in improvements, having one of the finest farm homes in the county, and is quite successfully engaged in general farming and stock raising. He and his wife are the parents of five children, Joseph, Catherine, Rosella, Vincent and Lucinda. The family are members of the Catholic church and are prominent in church work and the general social life of the community.

W. A. JULIAN.

W. A. Julian, editor and proprietor of the *Record* at Merrill and postmaster of that village, may properly be regarded as the dean of the newspaper fraternity in Plymouth county, for every other paper in the county has changed ownership since he founded the *Record* in 1890, he therefore being the oldest editor in the county in point of continuous proprietorship. Mr. Julian is a native of the neighboring state of Wisconsin, but has been a resident of Iowa since the days of his young manhood, when he came to Iowa as a young school teacher and continued thus engaged until he entered upon his newspaper career. He was born at Hazel Green, Wisconsin, February 19, 1863, son of Ralph and Mary (Curtis) Julian, natives of England, the former born at Plymouth and the latter at Lands End, who came to this country and settled in Wisconsin. There Ralph Julian died on June 9, 1881. His widow survived him for more than fifteen years, her death occurring on August 22, 1897. They were the parents of five children, those besides the subject of this sketch being as follow: James Julian, of Hazel Green, Wisconsin; R. Julian, of Rock Rapids, Iowa; T. H. Julian, of Kingsley, Iowa, and Mrs. G. Eachen, also of Kingsley.

Upon completing the course in the common schools, W. A. Julian took a course in the Wisconsin State Normal School at Platteville and was thereafter for some years engaged in teaching, filling the positions of superintendent of schools at Sibley, this state, at Remsen and at Merrill. While thus engaged at the latter place Mr. Julian conceived the rather bold design of starting a newspaper there. Such a design is referred to as a "bold" one, for no one save a person of courage, possessed of the proper confidence in his abilities would have entertained such a design, Merrill at that time having but two hundred population—hardly an inviting field for the establishment of a newspaper. But Mr. Julian had not only confidence in his abilities, but

an equally sustaining confidence that Merrill would shortly grow to real newspaper size and on August 20, 1890, he launched on "the uncertain sea of journalism" the *Merrill Record*, which was a success from the very start and of which Mr. Merrill has ever since been the editor and proprietor; as noted above, the oldest newspaper owner, in point of continuous ownership, in Plymouth county, all the other papers in the county having changed owners since the *Record* was founded. Mr. Julian is a Democrat and has ever given his earnest attention to political affairs, his long service in behalf of his party receiving a measure of reward when on April 1, 1915, he received his commission as postmaster of Merrill, which office he still occupies. During the period of his teaching service, Mr. Julian was a member of the National Teachers' Association for some time. He is a charter member of the Merrill lodge of the Knights of Pythias, in which lodge he has held all the offices; has been a member of the Iowa grand lodge of the Knights of Pythias since 1892 and has held minor offices in the same. He and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

On December 5, 1894, W. A. Julian was united in marriage to Olive M. Ward, who was born at Le Mars, daughter of O. F. Ward and wife, and to this union one child has been born, a son, W. Ward Julian, born on August 19, 1896.

WILLIAM STOLL.

William Stoll, a prominent farmer and stock man of Elgin township, Plymouth county, was born at Bloomington, Illinois, on June 16, 1870, being the son of Fred and Sophia (Schaes) Stoll.

Fred and Sophia (Schaes) Stoll were born in Mecklenburg, Germany, and there received their education, grew up and were married. There Mr. Stoll engaged in farming and the family continued to live until the year 1866, when they decided to come to America. After landing at the port of New York they proceeded to Buffalo, where they remained for one year, when they moved to Bloomington, Illinois, where the family resided for eight years. There the father worked for the Phoenix Nursery Company, and later moved to Cincinnati, Ohio, where he was engaged in a fruit house for one year. They then came back to Bloomington and the father again worked for the nursery company for a time and later came to Plymouth county, Iowa. He established his family on a rented farm, three miles north of Le Mars, where he remained for two years. He then moved onto eighty

acres of land in section 9, Elgin township. Here the father erected a small house, planted a grove and broke a part of the land and engaged in general farming for four years, after which, owing to ill health he had to retire from the more active duties of farm life. His death occurred on December 12, 1893, and his widow died on February 18, 1898. They were the parents of three children as follow: William, Frank and Sophia, of whom William is only member of the family now living.

William Stoll received his education in the schools of Elgin township and grew to manhood on the home place. Owing to the ill health of his father the greater part of the farm work was left to him, when he was but a lad, and on his father's death he took the place, which he has increased until he is now the owner of two hundred and twenty acres of fine land, all of which is in high cultivation and well improved. He devotes his time and attention to general farming and stock raising, and cultivates each year about sixty acres of corn and forty-five acres of small grain. He keeps many fine Shorthorn cattle and in 1916 he had two hundred and eighty head of the finest of Chester White hogs, being the largest breeder of these animals in the county. At the interstate fair in 1916, he won nine blue ribbons on six of his hogs, and his brood sow, "Stoll's Pride," won first prize and the championship, and today Mr. Stoll is recognized as one of the most successful breeders in this section of the state.

Mrs. Stoll is one of the most successful chicken raisers in the state, and has at times over five hundred in her flock, which are among the finest that can be produced. She specializes with Barred Plymouth Rock, and with them she has won sweepstakes at the Iowa Poultry Show and at Des Moines. At the interstate fair at the latter place in 1916 she won six grand prizes, three of them being first, and has never failed to capture a prize wherever she has shown her birds. She ships eggs to all parts of the United States, for which she receives the highest prices. Her flock receives much praise and attention by the people of the surrounding country, and her ability as a poultry raiser is generally acknowledged.

In 1895 William Stoll was married to Mary Lang, the daughter of Mike and Rosy Lang, of Sioux county, who were prominent residents of that section.

Mr. and Mrs. Stoll are active members of the Methodist Episcopal church at Struble and are among the prominent and influential workers in the local society. For a number of years Mr. Stoll was a trustee of the church, and he and his wife were great factors in the social and religious life of the community. Their efforts have ever been for the moral and social uplift

of the district in which they live. They are held in the highest regard and esteem by all and their efforts for good are appreciated. Mr. Stoll is identified with the Republican party, and while he has always taken a keen interest in local affairs, he does not aspire to office.

DAVID CASSEL.

David Cassel, mayor of Westfield, this county, and manager of the local branch of the Fullerton Lumber Company's extensive interests at that place, is a native of the state of Pennsylvania, but has lived in this part of the country since he was a lad. He was born in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, in 1880, son of John and Mary Cassel, natives of that same state, the former an engineer by trade, both of whom died when their son, the subject of this sketch was quite young. Thus bereaved of his parents in his youth, David Cassel was compelled at an early age to look out for himself. After his parents' death in Pennsylvania he went to Chicago and worked there for two years, at the end of which time, in 1893, he then being about thirteen years of age, he decided to come West and "grow up with the country." With that end in view he made his way into South Dakota and began working on farms, remaining thus engaged until 1908, when he located at Westfield, in this county, where he presently was appointed manager of the local branch of the Fullerton Lumber Company's business and has since occupied that position, having charge of the extensive plant of that company, including lumber and coal yards, at Westfield. That lumber yard was established back in the days when Westfield was but a small village and for a number of years was privately owned. When Mr. Cassel took charge he straightway put forth his best efforts to extend the business and in this has been quite successful, the plant having been largely increased under his management and new lines added, in addition to lumber and general building material carrying fencing and coal. Mr. Cassel has but recently completed a large new coal bin at the yards according to original designs worked out by himself, the plans of which could so readily be adjusted to the construction of corn cribs and other similar buildings, that it is not unlikely that the Cassel plan will become quite generally used in such connection.

David Cassel is a Republican and ever since he located at Westfield he has given his earnest attention to the civic affairs of that thriving little city and for the past four years has served as mayor of the same, in the admin-

istration of his executive office giving the same careful attention to the affairs of the public that he gives to his own business. Mayor Cassel also is a member of the Westfield school board and in all ways seeks to promote the general interest of his home town.

In 1906 David Cassel was united in marriage to Elva Johnson and to this union two children have been born, David and Elsie. Mayor and Mrs. Cassel have a very pleasant home at Westfield and give proper attention to the general social activities of the community.

WILLIAM SCHWEITZBERGER.

William Schweitzberger, one of Garfield township's well-known and substantial farmers and the owner of a fine farm of a fraction less than two hundred acres in that township, is a native of Wisconsin, born at Sauk City, that state, November 26, 1857, son of August and Margaret (Weinant) Schweitzberger, who came West shortly after their marriage in New York City and after a some-time residence at Sauk City, came to this state, where they spent the remainder of their lives. Upon coming to Iowa fifty years ago August Schweitzberger bought a farm in Cedar county and there lived until his retirement from the farm in 1904, when he and his wife came to Plymouth county, where their last days were spent, both now being deceased.

Reared on the home farm in Cedar county, William Schweitzberger, who was but a child when his parents settled in that county, received his schooling there and remained there until he came over to this county and started farming on his own account. After his marriage in 1882 he established his home on the farm on which he is now living in Garfield township and where he is the owner of one hundred and ninety-nine and one-half acres and there he has lived ever since. Mr. Schweitzberger has improved his farm in excellent shape and has also given considerable attention to the raising of live stock.

It was in 1882 that William Schweitzberger was united by marriage to Sophia Smith, who died in 1888, leaving two children, William, who married Sarah Rice and is making his home on the old home farm with his father, of late years acting as practical manager of the farm, and Jennie, who married Charles Johnson and is now living in South Dakota. The Schweitzbergers have a pleasant home in the Kingsley neighborhood and have ever done their part in helping to develop the best interests of the community.

WILLIAM H. DEEGAN.

Many of the farmers of Plymouth county were born in other states or foreign countries and have later come to this state, where they have met with success in farming as well as other lines of industry. Among them is William H. Deegan, who was born in Jo Daviess county, Illinois, on January 24, 1862, and is the son of Michael and Ellen (Perryman) Deegan. Michael and Ellen Deegan were born in the county of Kings, Ireland, and came to the United States with their parents, who located in Jo Daviess county, where the children were educated, grew to manhood and womanhood, and were later married. Michael Deegan engaged in farming as a young man and he and his wife continued to live in Illinois until 1886, when they came to Iowa and established their home on a farm in section 1, Elgin township, Plymouth county. It was on this farm that the parents continued to live, engaged in farming until their deaths. The father died some years ago at the age of sixty-four years and the mother's death occurred in 1907, at the age of sixty-four years. They were devout members of the Catholic church and were well known throughout the county and were held in high regard by all who knew them.

Michael and Ellen Deegan were the parents of the following children: Kate, Mary, William H., James J., J. F. and Ellen. Kate died while the family lived in Illinois; Mary is the wife of Ed Fitzpatrick of Le Mars; James J. and J. F. are farmers in Elgin township; Ellen is the wife of Mike King, of Sioux City, Iowa.

William H. Deegan attended school in Illinois and later came to Iowa with his parents. Soon after his arrival in Plymouth county he engaged in general farming in section 1, Elgin township, for himself. After four years he came to his present farm in section 12, known as the Hingby place. Here he has done much in the way of development and has erected all the buildings now on the place.

In 1882 William H. Deegan was united in marriage to Kate Quinlan, of Grant county, Wisconsin, and the daughter of Nicholas Quinlan and wife, who were natives of Ireland, and who later came to the United States and located in Wisconsin, where they passed the remaining days of their lives. To Mr. and Mrs. Deegan the following children have been born: Roy, Minnie, John, Joseph, Nellie, Florence, Margaret, William and Cecelia, all of whom are at home. They all received their education in the home schools and at Sioux City.

Mr. Deegan is still engaged in general farming and stock raising and

has a fine herd of Shorthorn cattle, many Duroc-Jersey hogs and some fine draft horses. He has always taken much interest in local affairs and is identified with the Democratic party. For many years he was a member of the local school board, and served his township as clerk and as trustee and was for six years a member of the county board of supervisors, being chairman of the organization. He and his wife are devout members of the Catholic church and have long been prominent in the social life of the township.

As a farmer and stock man Mr. Deegan is recognized as one of the successful and substantial men of the county. He now has two hundred and forty acres of land in the home place and one hundred and sixty acres in section 1, Elgin township. He is thoroughly posted on all current events and is well read. His life has been an active one and because of his ability and excellent judgment, he is often consulted relative to the affairs of the township and county.

JOHN SCHNEIDER.

John Schneider, the oldest living pioneer of Plymouth county, as well as one of the county's most extensive landowners, is a native of Germany, but has been a resident of this country since shortly after attaining his majority. He was born on September 29, 1831, son of Dietrich and Elizabeth (Reuter) Schneider, natives of Germany, the former a son of Philip Schneider, a farmer and a veteran of the war with Russia in 1813, and the latter a daughter of John Reuter.

Dietrich Schneider, born in 1800, died on May 2, 1840, leaving a widow and six children. On May 8, 1853, the Widow Schneider and her children left their native land, with a view to establishing for themselves a new home in this country, and landed at New York on September 1 of that year. For a year or two thereafter they were located near the city of Albany, the capital of the state of New York, and then came West, locating in Ogle county, Illinois, where they made their home on a farm. A year later John Schneider, the eldest son, came to this state, locating at Dubuque, whence, on March 16, 1856, he and three other young men of German birth started to walk out to this part of the state with a view to entering homesteads. They arrived in this section without serious mishap and John Schneider preempted a tract of one hundred and seventy-eight acres in what afterward became section 4 of Hungerford township, Plymouth county, though neither the county nor the township had been organized at that time. On July 3 of



MR. AND MRS. JOHN SCHNEIDER

that same year he was joined there by his mother and the other children, Philip, Mary, Daniel Jacob and Henry and the family establishing its home out here on the treeless plain, among the very first settlers in this part of the state. The Widow Schneider and the other members of the family drove through from Ogle county, Illinois, and were five weeks in making the trip. Philip Schneider, the only other one of the brothers at that time of age, also took advantage of the pre-emption act and the other brothers, when they reached their majority, took advantage of the homestead act and thus the family presently became very well established as landholders.

John Schneider, as one of the real pioneers of the county, took an active part in the work of organization when a civic order began to be established hereabout and during the early years held various county and township offices, including a service of four terms as county commissioners. During the Civil War he was drafted for service from this state, but his affairs at that time were in such a state that he found it more advantageous to send a substitute in his stead. As the years passed Mr. Schneider continued to add to his land holdings until now he is the owner of eleven hundred and seventy-two acres in this county. He is still living on the farm he pre-empted back in 1856, a little more than a mile north of the village of Hinton, where he for many years has had a very comfortable home, but for the past twenty years has been living retired from the active labors of the farm, his son, Philip, being the active manager of the place. In addition to his extensive land interests, Mr. Schneider also for many years took an active part in the general commercial and industrial affairs of his home community and was one of the organizers of the Farmers Insurance Company of Plymouth county. He also owns stock in the Farmers Elevator Company of Hinton and in other ways has aided in developing the general interests of the county.

On July 15, 1859, John Schneider was united in marriage to Katherine Winter, who was born in 1832 and who died on April 30, 1909. To that union four children were born, namely: Philip, who married Virginia Koenig and for years has been manager of his father's old home place; Anna, deceased; Frederick, who is unmarried, and Martha, who married George Koenig, also of Hungerford township. Mr. Schneider is a life-long member of the Evangelical church and helped to organize the congregation of that denomination in his neighborhood many years ago. His mother, the courageous pioneer mother who came out here to a practically uninhabited region with her children in the days of the beginning of settlement here-

about and who lived to be past eighty years of age, was one of the active organizers of that church and for many years one of the most influential workers in the same.

W. G. MARCUE.

W. G. Marcue, one of the well-known and substantial farmers and stock raisers of America township, Plymouth county, was born in Dubuque county, Iowa, on April 8, 1863, and is the son of Charles and Hannah (Fabie) Marcue, both of whom were natives of Germany.

Charles and Hannah (Fabie) Marcue received their education in the public schools of their native land and there grew up and were married. Mr. Marcue was left an orphan at an early age and had to make his own way in the world. He remained in Germany until 1846, when he came to the United States and located at Chicago, where he and his wife lived for some little time. They had no funds and could go no further. There Mr. Marcue was employed in installing the waterworks. He contracted a fever and the ague, and for a time was unable to work, which was a most serious condition for a stranger in a strange land, without any financial support. He later went to Dubuque county, Iowa, where he worked as a farm hand for a Mr. Payne for five years, at the end of which time he was able to buy forty acres of land near Dubuque. This farm he later sold to the Catholic people, and the place is now the location of the Catholic monastery. He then purchased land at Epworth, Iowa, which he later sold, and bought a farm in Cedar county, Iowa, where he farmed for fifteen years, when he retired to Le Mars, Iowa, where he died in 1899 at the age of seventy-four years; his wife survived him for a year when her death occurred at the age of seventy-two years.

Charles and Hannah Marcue were the parents of five children as follows: Rosie, C. J., Mary, Annie and William G. Rosie is now deceased; C. J. and Mary are residents of Le Mars. Mr. and Mrs. Marcue were devoted to the interests of their family, and were held in the highest esteem by all who knew them. They were active members of the Lutheran church for many years and always took much interest in all church work.

William G. Marcue received his education in the common schools of his locality. He grew to manhood on the home farm, where as a lad he assisted his father with the work on the place. He remained at home until his marriage on March 9, 1887, to Lydia Simonds, who was born in West

Branch, Iowa, and is the daughter of William and Anna (Mather) Simonds. The father was a native of England and the mother of New Salem, Ohio. They received their education in the local schools of their home communities and there grew up. As a young man Mr. Simonds engaged as an engineer on an ocean steamer and crossed the Atlantic several times. In 1862 he was married and retired from the ocean service, and established himself on a farm at West Branch, Iowa, and there engaged in general farming and stock raising. He was the youngest of thirteen sons. His death occurred in 1870; the widow is still living at the age of eighty-two years. Mrs. Simonds is a member of the Quaker church and takes much interest in the services of the denomination.

William and Anna Simonds were the parents of three children, as follow: Flora E., William and Lydia. Flora E. is single and lives at home with her mother, to whom she is most devoted; William is also at home. Mr. and Mrs. Simonds during their active lives took much interest in the affairs of their home community, and made for themselves many friends, who held them in the highest regard.

William G. and Lydia Marcue are the parents of three children as follow: Anna, Carl and Ralph W. The children received their elementary education in the local schools and completed the course in the high school at Le Mars. Anna later took a course in domestic science at Iowa Teachers College, Cedar Falls, Iowa, and completed her work in that science at Columbia University. The boys, after having completed their work in the high school, took the course in the university at Ames, Iowa. Mr. and Mrs. Marcue always took much interest in the education of their children and they have succeeded in giving them every educational advantage.

Soon after their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Marcue came to Plymouth county and established their home on one hundred and twenty acres of land in section 20, Marion township. The tract was but partially improved, but in time they made it one of the ideal farms of the locality. Here they made their home for fifteen years, and were successfully engaged in general farming and stock raising. They then sold the place and purchased one hundred and twenty acres in section 20, America township, which they have since increased to four hundred and ten acres of excellent land, which they have thoroughly developed and improved. The beautiful eleven-room house was built in 1901, and is modern throughout. The barns and other buildings are in keeping with the residence, and the thoroughly cultivated fields and the well-kept buildings are evidence of thrift and energy. Mr. Marcue keeps a fine lot of pure-bred Shorthorn cattle, Poland China hogs and draft

horses. He cultivates some one hundred acres of corn, sixty-five acres of small grain and twenty acres of alfalfa.

Mr. and Mrs. Marcue are active members of the Methodist Episcopal church at Le Mars, and are prominent in the religious and social life of the community. Mr. Marcue's son, Ralph, is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons at Le Mars and he and his sister are members of the Eastern Star lodge at that place. The daughter, Anna, is also a member of other young people's lodges and societies in their home city. The boys of the family are excellent young men, and with their scientific education are well fitted to take their places among the prominent and influential men of the county.

Few men have met with greater and more honorable success, by their own efforts, than has Mr. Marcue. He started life in a small way, and it has been by close application and honorable business transactions, that he and his wife, have won for themselves such an enviable position among the well-to-do people of Plymouth county. Their beautiful home and well-cultivated farm are recognized as among the best in the township. The family have long been prominent in the social life of the community, in which Mr. and Mrs. Marcue have had much to do with the social and moral uplift. Their lives have been most active ones and they have accomplished much. Mr. Marcus has always taken much interest in local affairs but has never been an office seeker.

DIETRICH WINTER.

One of Hinton's most enterprising and public-spirited citizens is Dietrich Winter, who was reared under an alien flag, but who has been loyal to our own since taking up his residence in this country some thirty-three years ago. He was born in Germany, September 18, 1862, and is a son of Philip and Elizabeth (Hottum) Winter, who spent their lives on a farm in the southern part of the German Empire, never coming to America, but three of their children did—Christian, Leonard and Dietrich. The other two, John and Johannah, live in Germany.

The subject of this sketch was born on the farm in his native land, and he attended the common schools there and worked in a store there. When twenty-one years old he came to the United States. In 1893 he married Stella Hencer and located at Hinton, Iowa, working on a farm there for about five years, then worked for a druggist in Merrill for two years,

then came to Hinton and started a general store, buying out Bogreif & Company, which had been founded about nine years previously. It was the first store in Hinton. Mr. Winter has continued to operate a general store here ever since, enjoying a large and growing trade. He carries a well-selected stock, invoicing about six thousand dollars.

The following children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Winter: Dietrich, Georgene, Fred, Herrold, Leonard, Ivan, and Juanita. They are all at home and have all been educated in the public schools.

Politically, Mr. Winter is a Democrat. In 1893 he was appointed postmaster at Hinton, holding the office until 1897. In 1913 he was again appointed postmaster and is still incumbent of the office, discharging his duties in a manner highly acceptable to the people and the department. There are three rural routes going out from the Hinton office. He maintains the office in his store. Fraternally, he belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He owns a good home and other property in Hinton.

PETER ARENDT.

Peter Arendt, a well-known and successful business man of Merrill, Plymouth county, and the manager of the Elevator Company, was born in Dubuque county, this state, on February 1, 1856, being the son of John and Elizabeth Arendt, both of whom were natives of Luxemburg.

John and Elizabeth Arendt were educated in the schools of their native country and there grew up and were married. They decided in 1851 to come to the United States. It was with only the feeling that they might the better be in a position to make a home for themselves and those dependent upon them that they came. On their arrival in this country, they at once came to Iowa, and here they settled in Dubuque county, and established their home on a farm, where they remained until 1868, when they came to Plymouth county, and John Arendt homesteaded a farm of eighty acres in section 34, Johnson township. The land was at that time undeveloped and unimproved and they were among the early settlers of the district, thus they suffered many of the hardships of the early pioneer life on the plains. The little farm was soon improved with a small house, and some of the wild tract was broken and planted to crops. Thus the beginning of a successful life was established, and in time Mr. Arendt became the

owner of three hundred and sixty acres of good land, the greater part of which he developed and on which he placed most substantial improvements, and continuing he engaged in general farming and stock raising for many years. His wife having died, he moved to Le Mars in 1889 and lived a retired life with his son, Peter, until the time of his death. He and Mrs. Arendt were the parents of six children, three of whom are now living as follow: Mary, John and Peter.

Peter Arendt was educated in the schools of Johnson township, Iowa, and as a young man engaged in farming for some years. He then moved to Merrill where he engaged in the buying of stock and grain, until his election as sheriff of the county in 1908. This office he held until 1912, with much credit to himself and the people of the county. He made a most efficient officer and retired with the good will of all. After leaving the sheriff's office he associated himself with the Plymouth Milling Company, Merrill, as manager, which position he still holds.

In 1879 Peter Arendt was united in marriage to Margaret Jenni, the daughter of Casper Jenni and wife, and to this union five children have been born as follow: Susan, Fred, Josephine, Rose and William. Susan is now the wife of D. W. Snyder and Fred is at Memphis, Tennessee, where he is connected with one of the important railroads of that section. Mr. Arendt is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America and a prominent Democrat of the county.

DAVID W. HARDIE.

Among the many well-known and successful farmers and stock men of Garfield township, Plymouth county, who have risen to a position of prominence and influence, may be mentioned David W. Hardie, who was born at Long Grove, Iowa, on January 14, 1852, being the son of David and Crawford (Robertson) Hardie.

The maternal grandparents of David W. Hardie were John and Jennie (Crawford) Robertson, natives of Scotland, the land of romance and poetry. The grandmother was the daughter of Thomas Crawford and wife, who lived and died in their native land. John Robertson died in the land that he loved so well, and after his death, the widow came to the United States in 1844, locating in Long Grove, Iowa, where she purchased a farm, on which she died. The paternal grandparents were also natives of Scotland and

there the grandmother died many years ago. After her death, the grandfather came to the United States, locating at Davenport, Iowa, where he lived for some time, and later made his home with his children.

David Hardie was born in Scotland on June 14, 1818, and received his education in the public schools and was a graduate of a college in that country, and there resided until he was twenty-two years of age, when he and a sister came to Long Grove, Scott county, Iowa. He soon purchased a farm in that locality, on which he lived for many years. Here he was united in marriage to Crawford Robertson, who died in 1858. It was in 1891 that he returned to his native heath, and there he died on July 14, 1913. Mr. and Mrs. Hardie were the parents of six children as follow: Jeanie, now deceased; Janet, David, John, Thomas C. and Crawford, now deceased.

David W. Hardie received his education in the local schools of Long Grove, and grew to manhood on the home farm, where as a lad and young man he assisted his father with the many duties on the home place. At the age of twenty-six he was united in marriage to Mary Martindale and to this union three children have been born as follow: Clara, Ethel and Geneva. In 1884 Mr. Hardie came to Plymouth county and purchased his farm of one hundred and sixty acres in section 24, Garfield township, and here he has since made his home. He is the only person now living on a farm who purchased land at that time, on the road for ten miles east of Kingsley. Since assuming possession of the place, Mr. Hardie has made many valuable improvements and has placed the farm under the highest state of cultivation. The present buildings have all been erected by him, the excellent modern house having been built in 1916. Mr. Hardie is engaged in general farming and stock raising and has a fine grade of Percheron horses, Durham cattle and graded hogs.

Mr. and Mrs. Hardie and children are active members of the Christian church at Pierson, and take much interest in all religious work. Mr. Hardie has for many years, served as an elder in the local organization. He and his wife have ever been active in all enterprises that have tended to advance the interests of the moral, social and educational conditions of the community, and they are held in the highest regard by all. They are a most hospitable people and take much pleasure in the entertainment of their neighbors and friends. Mr. Hardie always gave careful and considerate attention to the business of the township. Today, he is recognized as one of the prominent and substantial men of the locality. Fraternally, he is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Kingsley.

MATHIAS LANNERS.

Mathias Lanners, a well-known and substantial farmer of Marion township, this county, and the owner of a fine farm of one hundred and twenty acres, of which he makes his home, is a native of Europe, but has been a resident of this country since he was fourteen years of age. He was born on a farm in the grand duchy of Luxemburg on March 10, 1859, son of John and Mary Lanners, natives of that same country, who came with their family to the United States and in 1873 came on out to Iowa, locating at Dubuque, where John Lanners worked for about three years, at the end of which time, in 1876, he moved to a farm in Jackson county, where he remained until he came over to this part of the state in 1884 and settled in Sioux county. A year later he moved on down into Plymouth county and rented a farm in Union township, on which he made his home for nine years, at the end of which time he moved to Hartford, South Dakota, in the vicinity of which place he bought a farm and there made his home, farming, until his retirement in 1901, since which time he has made his home with one of his daughters. To John Lanners and wife eleven children were born, eight of whom are now living, three of these being residents of Plymouth county, those besides the subject of this sketch being Mrs. John Kleinschmitz, of Le Mars, and Mrs. Peter Theisen, also of Le Mars.

As noted above, Mathias Lanners was fourteen years old when he came to this country and his schooling was completed in the schools of Dubuque. In the neighborhood of that city he began working as a farm hand not long after locating there and then, in 1884, moved with his parents to Sioux county, the next year coming with the family to Plymouth county, where he ever since has made his home. For four years after coming here he farmed with his father and then, after his marriage in 1889, rented a farm of two hundred and eighty acres in Marion township and there made his home for nine years, at the end of which time he moved over into Meadow township and there rented a farm of three hundred and twenty acres, where he made his home until 1906, in which year he bought the farm of one hundred and twenty acres on which he now lives in Marion township. Mr. Lanners has greatly improved the place since taking possession of the same and he and his family are now very comfortably situated there. In addition to his general farming he gives considerable attention to the raising of live stock, feeding about one hundred head of hogs



MATHIAS LANNERS AND FAMILY

annually, and is doing very well. Mr. Lanners is a Democrat and takes close interest in the county's political affairs, but has not been a seeker after public office.

It was on May 28, 1889, that Mathias Lanners was united in marriage to Mary Madden, daughter of Michael Madden and wife, of this county, further mention of whom is made elsewhere in this volume, and to this union five children have been born, namely: Margaret, who married George Gephart and has three children, Joseph, Marion and Felix, and Peter, Joseph, Cecelia and Agnes, unmarried, who are at home with their parents. Mr. and Mrs. Lanners and family are members of St. Mary's Catholic church at Remsen and take proper interest in parish affairs, as well as in the general social activities of the community in which they live.

PETER CASPER.

Among the resident farmers of Lincoln township, Plymouth county, who have met with success and have won an enviable position in the district, may be mentioned the subject of this sketch, Peter Casper, who was born in Grant county, Wisconsin, on March 26, 1859, and is the son of Peter and Katherine Casper.

Peter Casper was born in Germany and there received a part of his education in the schools of that country. At the age of thirteen years, he came to the United States with his parents, who located in Milwaukee, where they lived for some years. Peter Casper later moved to Grant county, Wisconsin, and there engaged in farming. At the outbreak of the Civil War, L. A. Casper, his brother, enlisted in the Union army and saw much active service in the struggle to preserve the Union. Mr. and Mrs. Casper were the parents of eleven children as follow: Elizabeth, deceased; Katherine, Anna, deceased; Peter, Margaret, Josephine, John, Lawrence, Emma, deceased; Fred and Andrew J.

Peter Casper, the subject of this sketch, received his education in the common schools of Wisconsin, and was later married, on February 3, 1885, to Eva Lubben, who died on September 18, 1916, at the age of fifty-three years. Mr. and Mrs. Casper were the parents of the following children: Anna, George, Marie, Lawrence, Edward, Frank, John, Anton and William, the latter four being deceased.

Peter Casper came to Plymouth county in 1882 and after a residence

of four years in the county he located on his present home farm in Lincoln township. Here he engaged in general farming and stock raising and met with much success and is now the owner of three hundred and sixty acres, situated in Lincoln and Hungerford townships. He has placed his farm under a thorough state of cultivation and has erected all the buildings, which are well and nicely located. He has always taken an active interest in local affairs and has served his township as trustee, besides having held several minor offices. His life has been well spent and he has accomplished much that is worthy of note. His influence has always been exerted in the interests of the township and the county, and his honesty and integrity have won for him many friends, who hold him in high regard.

John and Eva Lubben, the parents of Mrs. Peter Casper, were farmers of Grant county, Wisconsin, and were prominent in their local community. They were active members of the German Lutheran church and took much interest in religious work. Peter Casper is also an active member of the Lutheran church, as was his wife.

CHARLES J. ROHLF.

In all ages, honesty, perseverance and energy, where intelligently applied, have achieved results which could only have been gained by having one end in view, and by improving every opportunity of ultimately attaining that object. Charles J. Rohlf, hardware merchant, of Hinton, Plymouth county, is an example of what can be accomplished when the spirit of determination is exercised in connection with the every-day affairs of life.

Mr. Rohlf was born in Scott county, Iowa, July 19, 1874. He is a son of Amos H. and Dorothy E. (Schroeder) Rohlf. Hans Schroeder, the maternal grandfather, was born in Germany, where he grew up and married. He came to America about sixty years ago, locating at Davenport, Iowa. He spent the rest of his life on a farm near that city. Amos H. Rohlf was born in Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, where he grew up and attended school. He came to the United States about 1856, locating at Davenport, Iowa, where he married and later moved to Clay county, this state, where he engaged in farming for twenty years. He is now living at Everly, Iowa. His wife died in 1903 at the age of fifty-five years. They were parents of the following children, William, Edward, George, Albert, Charles, Louise, Orville, and Ida.

Charles J. Rohlf grew up on the home farm in Scott county, Iowa, and there he attended school. On November 22, 1906, he married Almira Rainville, of French descent, and to their union three children have been born, namely: Arden, Clarke, and Eliose.

After his marriage Mr. Rohlf located at Bridgewater, Iowa, then lived in Hartley, this state, one year, also spent one year in the town of Spencer, then moved to Sioux Rapids and on to Le Mars in 1911, where he engaged in the hardware business under the firm name of Haas & Shuenk Hardware Company until 1914, when he came to Hinton to take charge of the store owned by the same firm, and he has been manager of the same ever since, his industry, courtesy and fair dealing resulting in building up a large and growing business with the town and surrounding country. He understands every phase of the hardware business. He owns stock in the firm.

Politically, Mr. Rohlf is a Republican. He belongs to the Yeomen Brotherhood of America.

JACOB J. SCHINDEL.

Jacob J. Schindel, a well-known and successful retired farmer and stock man of Plymouth township, Plymouth county, was born in that township on February 10, 1860, and is the son of Peter and Mary (Schneider) Schindel.

Peter and Mary Schindel were born in Germany and there received their education and later came to the United States, locating in the state of New York and were there married. As a young man, in his native country, he engaged in farming and it was in 1852 that he decided to establish a home in the United States. After a residence of three years in New York, where he was married, he came to Iowa, where he worked in a saw-mill in Sioux City, when the place contained only fourteen houses. After a year he came to Plymouth county in 1856 and located in section 33, Plymouth township, on a farm which he developed and improved, and later became the owner of five hundred acres of excellent land. He and his family came to the county with oxen and wagon, and were among the very first settlers in this section. On locating on his wild and undeveloped land, he built a small house, eighteen by twenty feet, in which the family lived for a number of years. For a number of years he engaged in the breaking of the wild prairie in the vicinity where he settled, and later engaged in general farming and stock raising, in which he was most successful.

Peter Schindel was a man of much force of character and always took an active interest in local affairs and in the early social life of the community. In addition to the social and moral work of himself and his wife, Mr. Schindel had much to do with the civic life of the township, and held many of the important offices. He and Mrs. Schindel were the parents of the following children: Jacob J., Henry, Peter, William, John, Charles, Mrs. Christena Berner, Mrs. Emma Nigg and Mary.

Jacob J. Schindel received his education in the schools of Plymouth township, and was reared on the home farm, where as a lad he assisted with the farm work, and continued with his father until he was twenty-four years of age. At this time he was married to Elizabeth Nigg, the daughter of Antone and Rose N. Nigg, on December 26, 1883. After his marriage Mr. Schindel rented land for a time and later purchased one hundred and forty-six acres, which he increased to three hundred and eight acres. This he farmed and engaged in stock raising until 1912, when he retired from the active duties of the farm work.

Mr. Schindel always was interested in local affairs and was for nine years township clerk, is now township treasurer, and recently has been elected on the board of county supervisors for a term of three years. He is identified with the Republican party and is a strong factor in that organization. Fraternally, he is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Knights of Pythias, being a past grand of the latter and in these organizations he has always taken a keen interest.

Jacob J. and Elizabeth (Nigg) Schindel are the parents of the following children: Allen, Harry, Irwin, Justina and Rose. Allen married Teesie Zimmerman and they are the parents of two children, Ronald and George Grayson; Harry married Marie Rosburg and Justina is the wife of O. W. Larson. The family is prominent in the social life of the county and all are held in the highest regard and respect.

Mr. Schindel, since his retirement from the more active duties of life, still takes much interest in the life of the district where he has so long lived, and in which he has had so important a part. Being a man of ability and force of character, he is often consulted relative to the interests of both the township and the county. To such men as he is due the development and growth of the county. To them are due the schools, the roads and other material developments that have placed the county in the fore rank of the counties of the state. The present generation can little understand the hardships and the privations that these early settlers underwent to make the state and the county what it is today.

JOHN R. HINDE.

John R. Hinde, a native son of Iowa and now a successful farmer and stockman of Elgin township, Plymouth county, was born at Durango, Iowa, on September 15, 1865, and is the son of Richard and Martha (Mullet) Hinde.

Richard and Martha Hinde were born in England and there received their education in the schools of that country, and there they spent their early life. Richard Hinde was born in 1835 and continued to reside in the land of his birth until 1853, when, at the age of eighteen years, he decided to come to the United States. On his arrival in this country, he came direct to Iowa, where he located in Dubuque county, in which he lived for some years and was married. In 1882 he and his wife came to Sioux county, Iowa, and there established themselves on a farm, where they spent the remainder of their lives. She died on August 9, 1892, at the age of forty-nine years and he, on April 16, 1914, at the age of seventy-nine years. They were the parents of eight children as follow: Martha J., now the wife of D. F. McArthur, a prominent and successful farmer of Elgin township; John R., Mary A., who is unmarried and continues to make her home on the old farm in Sioux county; Richard A., who died on April 14, 1913; Thomas W., who married Agnes Burrell, and is living at Forestburg, South Dakota; Ralph, who is unmarried and living on the home farm in Sioux county; Edward J., who is also living on the home place in Sioux county, and George W., who married Bessie Butler and is living in Sioux county.

John R. Hinde received his education in the public schools of Dubuque county, and remained with his parents on the home farm after they came to Plymouth county, until he was thirty years of age, during which time he assisted his father in the clearing and the improvement of the home place. In 1896 he was married and engaged in farming for himself, on a rented farm of one hundred and sixty acres, where he remained for three years, when in 1899, he came to Plymouth county, where he obtained one hundred and twenty acres of his own, which he has since increased until he is now the owner of one hundred and sixty acres, all of which is in section 14, Elgin township. Here he is engaged in general farming and stock raising, and each year cultivates ninety acres of corn and eighty acres of small grain. In addition to the operation of his own farm he rents eighty acres of land, and raises one hundred head of hogs and twenty cattle each year, all of his stock being among the very best.

In 1896 John R. Hinde was united in marriage to Stella Moore, the daughter of Reuben Moore and wife, and to this union the following children have been born: Harold, Robert, Dollie, Allen, Raymond, Myrtle, Glenn, John. Mr. Hinde is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and has served for eight years as director of the school district.

C. C. HAUFF.

Among the successful and prominent business men of Merrill, Plymouth county, who should be mentioned in a history of this section of the state, is C. C. Hauff, who is now engaged in the implement business, as senior member of the firm of Hauff Brothers. He was born at Magnolia, Iowa, on June 30, 1868, being the son of F. W. and Christina (Breitwieser) Hauff.

F. W. and Christina Hauff were natives of Germany and Quincy, Illinois, respectively, where they received their education in the local schools. As a young man F. W. Hauff came to America and located at Lancaster, Pennsylvania, where he worked as a farm hand for several years. He later established himself in Indianapolis, Indiana, where he worked on the railroads, and was later employed on the Ohio and Mississippi rivers for four years. In 1856 he located in Iowa, where he purchased a farm and engaged in general farming, until a short time before his death. He and Mrs. Hauff were the parents of nine children, five of whom are now living and two, C. C. and Daniel, residing in Plymouth county.

C. C. Hauff received his education in the schools of Magnolia, Iowa, and there grew to manhood on the home farm, where, as a lad he became impressed with the life of a farmer. He remained on the home farm until he was twenty-three years of age, and then rented land for six years and engaged in business for himself. He then came to Plymouth county at the age of twenty-nine years, and here rented land in Perry Creek, in section 2, Perry township, where he remained for five years. He then moved to Merrill, where he established himself in the implement and hardware business, having purchased the stock of Frank Bogenreif, and conducted the business for one year by himself. At this time his brother became associated with him in the business, and they continued in the old building until 1911, when they built the structure known as the "Hauff Block." The building is fifty-one by one hundred feet and comprised of two stories, all of which

is occupied by their stock of goods. They have met with much success and their business is today one of the largest of their line in the county. In addition to their home store they have branches at Craig, Struble and Hinton. They keep a complete and up-to-date line of goods and have a large trade.

On October 2, 1901, G. C. Hauff was married to Claudee Crouch, the daughter of Andrew Crouch and wife, and to this union three children have been born, Dwight C., Viola M. and Warren B.

Mr. Hauff is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Knights of Pythias. He has served on the school board and for eight years has been a member of the city council of Merrill.

ZWINGLE RAYBURN.

One of the men who devoted much of his life on the farm in Elgin township, Plymouth county, and is now living a retired life at Seney, Iowa, is Zwingle Rayburn, who was born in McLain county, Illinois, on September 6, 1857, being the son of David and Nancy (Gibson) Rayburn.

David and Nancy Rayburn were born in the state of Ohio, and there received their education in the public schools, grew up and were married. They continued to live in Ohio until 1854, when they moved to McLain county, Illinois, and established their home on a farm. Mr. Rayburn devoted his life to farming and he and his wife died on the home farm in Illinois. They were the parents of nine children, only two of whom came to Plymouth county, Zwingle and Malangton. Crannie Gibson also came and settled. He is now deceased.

Zwingle Rayburn received his education in the schools of McLain county, Illinois, and there grew to manhood and engaged in farming on the home place until 1886, when he came to Elgin township, Plymouth county. Here he purchased two hundred acres of land that had been somewhat developed and was improved with only a small shanty. He at once entered into the task of development and improvement and soon had one of the ideal farms of the township. He engaged in general farming and stock raising, and as he prospered he added to his original farm, until he has at this time six hundred acres of excellent land, all of which is under high cultivation and well improved. He continued in agricultural work until 1902, when he moved

to Seney, Iowa, where he is now engaged in the feeding of stock, and each year ships two cars of hogs and the same of cattle, all of high grade.

In 1885 Zwingle Rayburn was united in marriage to Susan B. Price, the daughter of Burrill Price and wife, well-known and highly respected people of the community in which they lived. Mr. and Mrs. Rayburn are active members of the Methodist Episcopal church and have always taken much interest in the religious and social life of the community. For a number of years Mr. Rayburn has been a trustee of the local church and superintendent of the Sunday school. He is progressive and possessed of much ability and business acumen, having met with considerable success in the work that he has undertaken.

Politically, Mr. Rayburn is identified with the Republican party, and while he has not aspired to office, he has always taken a keen interest in the affairs of the district in which he has lived, and where he has been held in the highest regard by all who knew him. He is well known throughout the county, and his advice and influence are often sought on matters of public interest. He is also one of the earnest workers in the cause of prohibition.

HENRY SCHNEIDER.

Henry Schneider, a substantial landowner of Hungerford township, this county, now living retired from the active labors of the farm at his comfortable home in that township, an honored veteran of the Civil War, former sheriff of Plymouth county, former county recorder, and former trustee of Hungerford township, is one of the oldest living pioneers of Plymouth county, being a younger brother of John Schneider, the oldest surviving pioneer of this county, a biographical sketch of whom is presented elsewhere in this volume. The Schneider brothers came to this county with their widowed mother in 1856, the elder brothers in that year pre-empting land on which the family established its home. At that time Henry Schneider was too young to take advantage of the pre-emption act, but a few years later, in 1861, he entered a claim to a homestead in this county, his being the ninth such claim to be entered to lands in the county. He later enlisted for service during the Civil War and after the war settled down on his homestead farm, endured the hardships and the privations of pioneer days, including the total losses of his crops during the years of the grasshopper visitations; but through it all kept his courage up and eventually prospered



MR. AND MRS. HENRY SCHNEPF

largely, becoming the owner of fifteen hundred acres of land in the county, all of which save about five hundred acres he has since divided among his children. In the early days of the settlement of Plymouth county Henry Schneider was one of the most active factors in the creation of a proper social and civic order hereabout and served in various public capacities in pioneer times. In 1860 he was elected sheriff of the county and in 1863 was elected county recorder. He later served for years as trustee of Hungerford township and was for many years a member of the school board. When the Schneiders settled in this county the only market hereabout was at Sioux City and oxen were the common means of transportation, while wooden plows were used for breaking the virgin soil of the boundless prairie, Mr. Schneider retaining very vivid recollections of making such plows for the breaking of his homestead land. He also retains the liveliest recollections of grasshopper days and is authority for the statement that at one time during that destructive visitation the clouds of grasshoppers flying overhead were sufficient to hide the face of the sun.

Henry Schneider is a native of Germany, but has been a resident of this country since he was sixteen years of age. He was born near Giessen, in the grand duchy of Hesse, December 1, 1839, son of Dietrich and Elizabeth (Reuter) Schneider, the latter of whom later became one of the pioneers of this county. Dietrich Schneider died when his son Henry, the subject of this sketch, was four months of age, leaving six children, Philip, John, Maria, Daniel, Jacob and Henry. In 1853 the Widow Schneider came to the United States with her younger children to join her eldest son, Philip Schneider, who had come over some time previously and had settled in Albany, New York. The family did not remain there long, preferring to try their fortune in the West, and moved to Ogle county, Illinois, where they remained about a year, at the end of which time they determined to come over into Iowa and take advantage of the cheap land that then was inviting settlement out in this part of the country. It was in 1856 that Mrs. Schneider and her family came to this county, being thus among the very first settlers in the county. The two elder sons, John and Philip, the former of whom is still living in this county, the oldest continuous resident in the county, and the latter of whom died in 1904, pre-empted land in what afterward came to be known as Hungerford township and there the Schneider home was established. The younger children at that time were not old enough to take advantage of the pre-emption law, but in 1861 Jacob and

Henry Schneider homesteaded each a tract of eighty acres in that same township, the latter's claim to one-half of a quarter section in section 4 being the ninth homestead claim filed in Plymouth county. That is the farm now occupied by Mr. Schneider's son, John C. Schneider.

When the Schneiders settled in this county their nearest neighbors were five miles distant and Indians still were quite numerous on the plains, bands of the aboriginals frequently passing the humble home on the prairie, but never offering molestation. There still were quite a number of buffaloes ranging the plains, though nothing like the huge herds which at an earlier time grazed hereabout, and also quite a number of elk and some deer. The other brother, Daniel Schneider, now deceased, later bought a tract of railroad land in the same neighborhood and thus the Schneider family became well established as landowners in this county, among the very earliest settlers of the same. The Widow Schneider, who for years maintained her position as the virtual head of the family, was an earnest member of the United Evangelical church and she and her family were among the foremost movers in the organization of a church of that denomination when there came to be enough settlers of that faith hereabout to warrant such a movement. She lived to the great age of eighty-one years, her death occurring at her old home in Hungerford township about thirty years ago.

As noted above, Henry Schneider took an active part in the civic affairs of the new community after the organization of Plymouth county, serving successively as sheriff and as county recorder, and in 1864 enlisted as a private in the Second Regiment, Iowa Volunteer Infantry, and served with that command until the close of the war. Upon the completion of his military service Mr. Schneider returned to his home in this county and resumed the development of his farming interests. In the summer of 1867 he married and established his home on his original homestead tract in section 4. As his farming operations prospered he added to his land holdings until he became the owner of fifteen hundred acres of land in this county, nine hundred and ninety-three acres of which he has since given to his children as they established homes of their own, he still retaining five hundred acres, though long since retired from the active labors of the farm. Though now nearing the age of four-score years, Mr. Schneider retains his physical and mental vigor and continues to take a warm interest in current affairs. He is a veritable "mine" of information on matters relating to the early history of this section of the state and particularly of Plymouth county and delights to narrate incidents of pioneer days hereabout.

It was on June 20, 1867, that Henry Schneider was united in marriage to Dorothea Schmidt and to that union six children were born, Christine, John C., Rebecca, Daniel, Dorothea and Elizabeth. Of these children Rebecca is now living at Dallas, South Dakota; Daniel is living at Tacoma, Washington; Elizabeth married Dr. Julius Kraft, of Albuquerque, New Mexico, and Dorothea is at home, housekeeper for her father, the mother having died on July 18, 1912, being then sixty-six years and six months of age.

A. F. RIEMENSCHNEIDER.

Among the many young men who are successfully engaged in agricultural work in Elkhorn township, Plymouth county, may well be mentioned A. F. Riemenschneider, who was born in Marshall county, Iowa, on January 29, 1882, and is the son of Heinrich and Lena (Sutler) Riemenschneider.

The paternal grandfather, Lewis Riemenschneider, was a native of Germany and there received his education in the public schools, grew to maturity and was married. The grandfather was a farmer in his native land, and was thus engaged until 1870, when he and his family came to the United States. They located at State Center, Iowa, and there engaged in general farming and stock raising. Heinrich Riemenschneider was also a native of the fatherland and was educated in the public schools of that country. He remained a resident of the land of his birth, where he worked on the farm, until he was twenty-two years of age, and then came to Iowa with his father and family. He was married to Lena Sutler at State Center, Iowa, the same year that he came to this country, and it was there that he lived the rest of his life. He engaged in general farming and was most successful, and became the owner of two hundred and forty acres of land at State Center and one hundred and sixty in Plymouth county, as well as one hundred and sixty acres in Woodbury county.

Heinrich and Lena Riemenschneider were the parents of the following children: Henry, L. C., Irvin, Emma, Lena, Edward, A. F., A. C. and N. D. The parents were active members of the German Lutheran church and were prominent in all religious work.

A. F. Riemenschneider received his education in the public schools at State Center and there grew to manhood. On March 16, 1905, he was united in marriage to Emma Bauers and to this union five children have been born: Leona, Theressa, Emery, Irene and Ralph. The year before

his marriage Mr. Riemenschneider located on eighty acres of his present farm in section 36, Elkhorn township. This he farms in addition to eighty acres that he rents from his brother, Irvin, as well as one hundred and sixty acres in Woodbury county. He devotes his time to general farming and stock raising, and is particularly interested in his thoroughbred Shorthorn cattle, which are recognized throughout the county as being of the finest grade. His farm is under a high state of cultivation and well improved. The substantial house was built in 1906 and four years later the barn was erected.

Mr. and Mrs. Riemenschneider are prominent in the community, and attend the German Lutheran church. Mr. Riemenschneider has always taken a keen interest in local affairs and has served his district on the school board. The name of their country home is "Kingsley View Farm."

A. F. Riemenschneider's brother, Henry, who is one of the successful farmers of the township, lives on the adjoining farm to the north. He was born on February 22, 1868, and on September 20, 1898, he was united in marriage to Anna Gehrig and they are the parents of three children, Lurena, Ruby and Maud.

EDWARD C. HAAS.

Edward C. Haas, one of the well-known and prominent merchants of Le Mars, Plymouth county, was born in the county, on October 31, 1884, being the son of C. E. and Emma (Wermli) Haas.

John Haas, the paternal grandfather of Edward C. Haas, was born in Germany, and there received his education in the public schools and there he spent the greater part of his life. As a young man he learned the mason trade, to which he devoted his life. He later came to the United States, and located at Galena, Illinois, where he worked at his trade and he lived until the time of his death, some years ago.

C. E. Haas, the father of Edward C. Haas, was born at Galena, Illinois, and there received his education in the public schools and grew to manhood. He remained a resident of that state until 1880, when he came to Iowa, and located at Le Mars. Here he and J. C. Huebsch established themselves in the hardware business, and the partnership continued for over twenty years. After that time the firm was known as the Haas, Shuenk Hardware Company, and in 1913, was incorporated under that name. Mr. Shuenk, of the firm, is president of the company; Edward Haas is vice-president, and Herbert D. Haas is secretary and treasurer. In addition to their large

store, tin shop and warehouse at Le Mars, the firm also has a large store at Hinton. The firm does an extensive business and is recognized as one of the most substantial and progressive establishments of its kind in this section of the country. They carry a complete line of house and building hardware as well as farm implements and machinery. C. E. Haas, retired from the business some eight years ago. Mr. Shuenk and the two Haas boys now being the owners of the business.

C. E. and Emma Haas are active members of the German Methodist church and are active in all church work, and for many years have been prominent in the social life of the community. They have had much to do with the growth and the development of their home town, and have ever been active in all enterprises that had a tendency to promote the best interests of the community. Mr. Haas has had much to do with civic life, and was for a number of years a member of the school board. During his term of office on the board he took a keen interest in the success of the schools and stood for the highest possible standard of efficiency. Mr. and Mrs. Haas are the parents of the following children, Edward C., Herbert D., W. M., and Helen.

Edward C. Haas received his education in the public schools of Le Mars and later attended the state normal school, from which institution he was graduated in the class of 1906. After completing his education, Mr. Haas took a homestead, which he held for one year and then sold it, and returned to Le Mars and engaged in the hardware business, with the Haas, Shuenk Hardware Company, the firm with which he is still associated, in the capacity of vice-president.

On October 10, 1914, Edward C. Haas was united in marriage to Hollies McCool, a young lady of refinement and ability. Mr. and Mrs. Haas are active members of the Methodist Episcopal church and are prominent in all church work, and especially are they active in the musical part of the services. Mrs. Haas is a woman of much musical ability, and is the leader of the choir, while Mr. Haas is a member of the organization and his sister, Helen, presides at the pipe organ. Mr. and Mrs. Haas are also prominent in the social life of the town, and are held in the highest regard. Both are highly cultured people and their influence is ever exerted for the highest standard of living.

Fraternally, Edward C. Haas is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons, and also has the chapter degrees. He has always taken an active interest in the civic and the business life of the town, and his advice has

often been sought in matters pertaining to the public business. He is most progressive, and enters into the spirit of his business in a manner that insures success, and thus commands the confidence and respect of his business associates and the people generally.

A. M. MAUER.

A. M. Mauer, a well-known dentist and a substantial citizen of Merrill, Plymouth county, was born at Le Mars, Iowa, on March 3, 1891, and is the son of C. A. and Louise M. (Born) Mauer.

C. A. and Louise M. Mauer were born in Wisconsin and there received their education in the public schools, and later were married. The father after completing his education, engaged as a traveling salesman, which work he has followed the greater part of his life. He and his wife are residents of Le Mars where they are held in the highest regard and esteem by all who know them. They are the parents of the following children: Mrs. W. E. Dennler, Mrs. E. R. Campbell, Dr. G. A. Mauer, Mrs. Florence Prussener, L. E. and A. M. Mrs. W. E. Dennler's husband is a prominent merchant of Merrill, and they are the parents of three children as follow: Leolla Elizabeth, William Howard and Charles Richard.

A. M. Mauer received his primary education in the public schools and graduated from the high school at Iowa City in 1910. After completing his primary education he worked for two years for the Illinois Central railroad, after which he took up dentistry and completed his studies in the Iowa State University, where he completed his work with the class of 1915 and received the degree of Doctor of Dental Surgery. On completing his work in the university, he located at Merrill, where he was the first dentist, and where he has met with much success in his chosen profession. He being a man of much ability and pleasant personality, has won the confidence and respect of the people of his community and has established a business that is growing and profitable. Doctor Mauer is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and has long been active in the work of that denomination. He takes an active interest in the general religious work of the community and has had much to do with the moral and religious life of the district in which he lives.

Politically, Doctor Mauer is identified with the Republican party, and while he does not aspire to office, he has taken much interest in local affairs

and believes in the most progressive development of the district. He believes in the best possible schools and the best roads, holding the opinion that in these the future growth and development of the county depends. Fraternally, he is a member of the Knights of Pythias, in which he takes much interest, and of the Psi Phi fraternity, having joined the latter when he was a student in the university. Socially, Mr. Mauer takes much interest in the life of the community, and is a man in whom the public place the greatest confidence.

CLAUD F. DE LAMBERT.

Claud F. De Lambert, a well-known and successful young farmer of Garfield township, Plymouth county, is a Hoosier by birth, having been born in the state of Indiana, near the city of South Bend, on October 26, 1876, being the son of Henry and Lina (Lauman) De Lambert.

Henry and Lina De Lambert were natives of the state of New York and Niles, Michigan, respectively. For some time after their marriage they lived on a farm near South Bend, Indiana, and there the son, Claud F., was born. They later came to Iowa and located in Garfield township, where the father died on December 9, 1914, at the age of sixty-four years, he having been born in 1852. Mr. and Mrs. De Lambert were the parents of four children as follow: Claud F., Mabel F., B. R. and Edna, all of whom are married and living in this section of the state of Iowa. The parents were active members of the Christian church at Pierson, the father being one of the organizers of the local society and was for many years one of the elders.

Claud F. De Lambert received his education in the public schools of Garfield township and at Pierson. He grew to manhood in this locality and on February 1, 1900, was united in marriage to Clara E. Hardie, a native of Scott county, and the daughter of D. W. Hardie, a successful farmer of this county. Before his marriage, Mr. De Lambert purchased his present farm of one hundred and sixty acres in 1898. The tract is located in section 25, Garfield township, and here Mr. De Lambert has made many valuable and substantial improvements, and today has one of the model farms and ideal country homes in the township. The house was remodeled in 1915, into a modern residence with every convenience. His two fine barns were built in 1902 and in 1908, and all other improvements on the place have been made by Mr. De Lambert. Since August 1, 1916, he has been

engaged in the automobile business with I. A. Dawson, at Pierson and Kingston, in the selling of the Reo and Overland cars.

Mr. and Mrs. De Lambert have long been active members of the Christian church at Pierson, this being the church that their fathers assisted to organize, and in which they were for so many years elders. Mr. De Lambert has had an active life and he has accomplished much that is worthy of note. He is one of the progressive men of the township and the county, having been trustee for several terms and has always taken an active interest in local affairs. Both he and his wife have used their influence in the promotion of the moral and social interests of the community, Mrs. De Lambert being Bible school teacher of the largest class in the church for six years.

ERHARD HELD.

As one reviews the history of Plymouth county and looks into the past to see what people were prominent in its early development, he will find that for more than half a century, the period covering its first settlement to the present time, the Germans have been closely connected with the affairs of the county, especially in an agricultural way. Among this number was the late Erhard Held, who was born in Germany, March 18, 1834, a son of Erhard, Sr., and Annie Charlotta (Effling) Held. The mother died in Germany at the age of fifty-six years, after which the father brought his children to America, in 1856, locating in Jackson county, Nebraska, on a farm.

Erhard Held, the subject of this memoir, was twenty-two years old when he came to the New World with his father in 1856. He had received a common-school education in his native land. He worked on a farm in Jackson county, Nebraska, where he was married, in 1861, to Elizabeth Winter, a daughter of Dietrich and Anna Magdalena (Sauer) Winter natives of Germany; from which country they came to America in 1856, locating in Plymouth county, Iowa, but later moved to Jackson county, Nebraska. A complete account of the Winter family will be found in a biographical sketch of Henry Winter presented elsewhere in this work. In 1861 Mr. and Mrs. Held located in Hungerford township, Plymouth county, where he bought a farm and there he spent the rest of his life, dying on February 13, 1913. He became one of the largest landowners in the county and one of the leading farmers of the same, owning at the time of his death, about twelve hundred acres, all in Hungerford township, where he carried



ERHARD FIELD AND FAMILY

on general farming and stock raising on an extensive scale. Mr. Held never sought political preferment, desiring to devote his attention to his farm and his home, but he took a good citizen's interest in the affairs of his township and county. He was a member of the United Evangelical church of Hungerford township, he and his wife being among the original organizers of the same. He had been living on the farm on which he died about fifteen years and had put all the improvements on the same. Since his death his widow and children have been taking care of the estate.

The following children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Held: Philip, Mary, Christine, Hannah, Henrietta, Martha, John, Gus A., Elizabeth (deceased) and Victoria. Gus A., who is unmarried, was born on October 28, 1879. He owns eighty acres in section 15, Hungerford township. Christine, who was born on November 28, 1864, married Joseph Swegler on March 3, 1909. Mr. Swegler owns one hundred and sixty acres in Liberty township, this county.

RAY A. SMITH.

Ray A. Smith, editor and proprietor of the *Akron Register-Tribune*, published at Akron, this county, and one of the best-known newspaper men in northwestern Iowa, is a native son of Iowa and has lived in this state all of his life. He was born at Spirit Lake on August 7, 1876, son of John A. and Anna (Middleton) Smith, the former a native of the state of Vermont and the latter of Wisconsin, whose last days were spent in this state.

John A. Smith, who established the *Akron Tribune*, was an all-around newspaper man of many years experience. He learned the printing trade in Vermont in his youth and in the days of his young manhood came West and for a number of years was engaged working in the lumber woods of Wisconsin, remaining there until 1869, in which year he came to Iowa and located at Spirit Lake, for some time being connected with a saw-mill company at Milford, near there. He later had various business connections there, was in the real estate business at Spirit Lake for some time and then became the publisher of the *Spirit Lake Beacon*, printing the first issue of that paper, and later became the proprietor of the same. He presently established the *Milford Mail*, which he published for some time, and until 1887 made his home at Spirit Lake, where he also for some time served

as county surveyor. Then he moved to Sioux City, where for several years he was employed as city editor of the *Sioux City Journal*. Later Mr. Smith established a once-a-week paper at Sioux City, in connection with which he also operated an extensive job-printing plant, and remained there until 1896, when he moved his plant to Akron and in that year established the *Akron Tribune*, which he published until his death in the year following, in October, 1897, he then being forty-eight years of age. John A. Smith was twice married. His first wife, who, before her marriage, was Anna Middleton, died in 1883, at Spirit Lake, in the thirtieth year of her age, leaving three sons, Harry L., Ray A. and Allan M., the former of whom is now the foreman in the office of the *Akron Register-Tribune* at Akron, and the latter of whom is now the manager of the Milwaukee office of the Western Newspaper Union, a concern which supplies auxiliary sheets and stereotyped "plate" matter to the newspapers of the country. John A. Smith later married Mary Collins, who survives, and to that union was born one child, a daughter, Mollie, who died when nine years of age.

Ray A. Smith was eleven years of age when his father moved from Spirit Lake to Sioux City and in the latter city he completed his schooling. At the age of fourteen he became engaged in newspaper work in his father's office and there served a most valuable apprenticeship in the various departments of the business, becoming not only an excellent printer, but a competent newspaper writer, and at the same time gained a thorough knowledge of the details of management in the counting-room of the newspaper. When Mr. Smith established the *Akron Tribune*, his three sons became connected with him in the operation of the plant and in the publication of the newspaper and upon their father's death in 1897, assumed the control and management of the plant and continued the publication of the paper. In 1900 Allan M. Smith sold his interest in the paper to his brothers and left Akron and in 1901 the *Tribune* and the *Akron Register* were consolidated under the present name of the *Register-Tribune*, with Ray A. Smith and B. F. Round as proprietors, and in 1907 Ray A. Smith bought the interest of Mr. Round in the paper and has ever since been the editor and sole proprietor of the same. Since securing sole possession of the plant, Mr. Smith has made many extensive improvements in the same and now has one of the best-equipped newspaper offices in northwestern Iowa. He has a Babcock cylinder press, operated by a gasoline engine; a new model 8 linotype, operated by individual electric motor, and a twelve by eighteen jobber, also operated by individual motor. The plant is well equipped with modern

type faces and turns out a fine line of job printing, Mr. Smith having an excellent business in the latter line. He has built the circulation of the *Register-Tribune* up until it covers the field thoroughly, the paper now having a circulation of above twelve hundred and its influence is widely recognized throughout this part of the state.

On September 12, 1901, Ray A. Smith was united in marriage to Aura M. Phippin, of Spirit Lake, a member of one of the old families there, and to this union has been born one child, a son, Gerald. Mr. Smith is a Scottish Rite Mason, a member of the blue lodge at Akron and of the consistory at Sioux City, and takes a warm interest in Masonic affairs. He is earnestly interested in all movements having to do with the advancement of the best interests of his home town and of the county at large and never neglects an opportunity, either by voice or pen, to promote the same.

F. G. VERNON, M. D., C. M.

Dr. F. G. Vernon, a well-known and successful physician and surgeon of Merrill, Plymouth county, was born in Ontario, Canada, on April 8, 1882, and is the son of George and Mary E. Vernon. George Vernon has long been a successful farmer and stock man of that province in the Dominion and there his wife died in 1913. They were prominent in the social and civic life of the district and were held in the highest regard by all. George Vernon has ever taken much interest in the local community in which he has lived for many years and is a man of much prominence in his home district.

F. G. Vernon received his primary education in the local schools of his home district and later attended the high school at Uxbridge, Ontario, Canada, for a short time. He then entered the Markhan College, where he remained for three years, when he began his studies in Trinity Medical College and finished at Toronto University, and there received the degree of Doctor of Medicine and Master of Surgery in 1906. He then devoted one year to postgraduate work at the National Sanitarium Association at Cravenhurst, Canada. After completing his collegiate work and receiving his degrees, he located at Merrill, Iowa, in 1907, where he now has an extensive practice, and is recognized as one of the most successful practitioners of this section of the state. He has always taken much interest in the medical organizations and is a member of the American Medical Asso-

ciation, the Iowa Medical Association, the Plymouth County Medical Society and the Sioux Valley Medical Association. He has also been connected with the medical department of the railroads, and is a member of the American Railway Surgeons Association and the Northwestern Railway Surgeons Association. In these various organizations he has demonstrated his ability as a man of exceptional qualities and has for years been known as one of the most successful practitioners.

On June 1, 1914, Dr. F. G. Vernon was united in marriage to Alice Murphy, the daughter of E. J. Murphy and wife, prominent residents of the county, and to this union one child has been born, Dorothy. Mr. and Mrs. Vernon are prominent in the social life of the community in which they live and where they exercise an extended influence for good.

Fraternally, Doctor Vernon is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Knights of Pythias, the Modern Woodmen of America and the Yeomen, in all of which he is known as one of the active and efficient workers. His life is a most active one and he exerts a pronounced influence on the people of the district, because of his high qualities of manhood and professional standing. He has the confidence and the respect of the entire district and his ability is recognized by all.

JOHN FRANCIS MARCH.

John Francis March, head of the firm of March & Thorson, druggists, at Akron, this county, and one of the most enterprising and progressive business men in this part of the state, is a native of Wisconsin, but has been a resident of this county since he was seven years of age. He was born on a farm in Lafayette county, Wisconsin, February 4, 1868, son of Littlefair and Elizabeth (Cook) March, both natives of England, who became pioneers of Plymouth county and the former of whom spent his last days here, the latter still living on the old home place north of Le Mars.

Littlefair March was born in England in 1842 and was but a child when his parents came to this country, settling in Wisconsin, where he grew to manhood and where he married Elizabeth Cook, who also was but a child when her parents came to this country from England, the Cooks also settling in Wisconsin. After his marriage Littlefair March farmed in Wisconsin and in Illinois until 1875, in which year he came to Iowa and settled in Plymouth county, buying a farm north of Le Mars.

There he farmed for a number of years and then opened a general merchandise store, which he conducted for many years, or until his death in 1897. His widow is still living at the old home north of Le Mars. Of their six children, the subject of this sketch is the eldest.

As noted above, J. F. March was but a child when his parents came to Plymouth county and he completed his common-school education in the high school at Le Mars, supplementing the same by a course in the business college at Wichita, Kansas, from which he was graduated in 1888, after which for some years he was engaged in business with his father. On August 1, 1902, in partnership with his brother, W. L. March, a licensed pharmacist, Mr. March engaged in the drug business at Akron and has ever since been thus engaged. Upon starting in business there the March brothers bought out a restaurant in order to secure the location, sold the restaurant stock and put in a complete new line of drugs and druggists' sundries. In order further to equip himself for the management of the business J. F. March presently entered Babcock's School of Pharmacy at Des Moines, from which he was graduated in 1906, and successfully passed the state examination for licensed pharmacists. In that same year he bought his brother's interest in the business and conducted the same alone until he formed a partnership with E. O. Thorson, since which time the business has been conducted under the firm name of March & Thorson. The growth of this firm's business has been steady and the store is now regarded as the best-equipped and most completely stocked drug store on the line between Sioux City and Sioux Falls. In addition to his extensive mercantile interests, Mr. March is the owner of a fine home at Akron, the owner of the building occupied by the Silkebakken store and the building formerly occupied by the Button music store in that city; a half interest in a three-hundred-and-twenty-acre farm in Plymouth county, and also has large real-estate holdings in Montana. His residence is one of the best in the county, thoroughly modern in every respect and among its up-to-date equipments is a large billiard room. Mr. March is a Republican, but has not been included in the office-seeking class, though ever attentive to the best administration of local civic affairs.

In 1904 J. F. March was united in marriage to Elizabeth Lake, of Hawarden, this state, and to this union three children have been born, Philip L., John Francis, Jr., and George Littlefair. Mr. March is a Mason of the thirty-second degree, and is past senior warden of his local lodge. He also is a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and of the Woodmen of the World, while both he and Mrs. March are members of the

Order of the Eastern Star, Mrs. March being the past worthy matron of the same. They take a proper interest in the general social activities of their home town and are ever helpful in the work of promoting movements designed to advance the common welfare hereabout.

P. L. ELLIS, D. V. M.

P. L. Ellis, one of the well-known and successful men and prominent veterinary surgeons of Plymouth county, who enjoys an extensive practice at Merrill, Iowa, was born at Montour, Tama county, Iowa, on July 31, 1890, being the son of Edwin and Minnie Ellis. His father came from Ohio and his mother from Vermont. They then located in Tama county, where the father was employed by the Chicago & Northwestern railroad until 1896, at which time he moved to Clinton, Iowa, remaining in the employ of the Chicago & Northwestern as checker at Clinton stockyards. In 1900 he moved to Ames, entering the postoffice, where he is now superintendent of mails. Mr. and Mrs. Ellis are the parents of three children as follow: Dr. W. V. Ellis, of Sioux City, Iowa; Mrs. Lula Pierce and P. L.

P. L. Ellis received his education in the common schools and at Ames, Iowa, where he graduated from the high school. After completing his education in the high school he clerked for a time after which he entered the Iowa State College of Veterinary Medicine and received his degree of Doctor of Veterinary Medicine in 1913. After having received his degree in his chosen profession he located at Merrill, where he has continued in the practice, with much success.

On July 13, 1915, P. L. Ellis was united in marriage to Marguerite Huntley, a young lady of refinement and culture and one who has been held in the highest regard and esteem by all who know her. She has since girlhood taken an active interest in the social life of her home community, and today she and her husband are among the prominent people of their district. They take much interest in the moral and social development of their community and are held in high regard. They are active members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

Politically, Doctor Ellis is identified with the Republican party, and takes an active interest in all local affairs. Fraternally, he is a member of the Masonic order, in high standing; the Knights of Pythias, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, in all of which he takes much interest, and is recog-

nized as one of the hustling members of each of the orders. As a practitioner he is known outside the confines of his immediate territory and is frequently called into consultation beyond his home district. He is a member of the state Veterinary Medical Association, and the American Veterinary Medical Association, and has had much to do with their success and standing in his home community.

In all the affairs of life, Doctor Ellis has demonstrated that he is a man of ability. He takes the deepest interest in the growth and development of the county, and because of his excellent judgment and varied experience, he is often consulted relative to the civic affairs of the district. His young life has been a most active one and he has accomplished much that is worthy of emulation.

C. H. BAUER.

C. H. Bauer, deceased, who was one of the enterprising farmers and highly respected citizens of Garfield township, Plymouth county, was born in the northern part of Germany on January 31, 1853, and was the son of Joachim and Christine (Paustian) Bauer. The parents were also natives of Germany and there received their education in the public schools and were married. It was in 1866 that the family came to the United States and located; first in Davenport, Iowa, then in Scott county, Iowa, and then came to Shelby county, Iowa. It was on the home farm in that county that they died many years ago. They were active members of the German Lutheran church and were prominent in all social and religious work.

C. H. Bauer received his education partly in the schools of his native land, and in Davenport, when he came to Shelby county, with his parents. He grew to manhood on the home farm and engaged in farm work. On September 23, 1879, he was united in marriage to Agnes Toedt, who was also a native of Germany, having been born in the fatherland on December 9, 1859. Her parents, Henry and Margaret (Held) Toedt, lived and died in Germany. The father was a woodworker of prominence. They were the parents of the following children: Eliza, Wilhelmena, Henry, Adolph, Ernest, Lewis, Agnes, Eunice, Charlotte, Freida and Carl.

After their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Bauer lived on a farm in Shelby county for four years, after which they came to Plymouth county, locating on the present farm, two miles north of Pierson, in section 25, Garfield township. Mr. Bauer at first purchased one hundred and sixty acres of

land, to which he added, until at the time of his death, on October 1, 1903, he was the owner of four hundred and eighty acres of the best of land, all in one body. The early improvements were placed on the farm by Mr. Bauer. All the later improvements, which are modern, were placed by the widow, the splendid house having been built in 1906. They were the parents of the following children: Dora, William, Emma, Carl, Julius, Marie, Ellie, Adelia, Elsie and Henry. Dora is now the wife of Owen Knack; William married Caroline Kimm and lives at Braham, Minnesota, and Emma is the wife of A. F. Reimenschneider, while Julius and Carl operate the farm for the mother. Under their management the place receives the same careful attention that was given it by their father.

C. H. Bauer was a man of much ability and of the highest integrity, and was held in high regard by all who knew him. His life was an active one and he accomplished much that is worthy of emulation. He took the greatest pleasure in his home life, and his every effort was for the family comfort and happiness. He and his wife always took much interest in the services of the German Lutheran church, of which they were active members.

BRUNKE BRUNKEN.

Among the many successful men and farmers of Elgin township, Plymouth county, who were born in foreign countries, may well be mentioned Brunke Brunken, a well-known farmer and stock man of that township, who was born in Ost Friesland, Germany, on October 2, 1865, son of O. and Anna Brunken, natives of that country, who spent all their lives there. The father was a successful farmer and he and his family were held in the highest regard by all. They were members of the German Lutheran church and took much interest in religious work. They were the parents of four children, Falka, Jelda, Brunke and Martin. The little family, with the exception of Brunke and Martin, remained in the Fatherland, where they were prominent in the social and religious life of the home community.

Brunke Brunken received his education in the schools of his native land and there grew to manhood, remaining there working on a farm until 1889, when he decided to come to America, where he might have a better opportunity to establish a home for himself. On his arrival in the United States he at once proceeded to Iowa and located in Plymouth county, where for five years he continued to work as a farm hand. He then purchased eighty



acres of land in Grant township, which he farmed for seven years, at the end of which time he purchased two hundred and seventeen acres, a part of his present two-hundred-and-fifty-seven-acre farm in Elgin township. This he has developed to a high state of cultivation and on it has placed most of the substantial improvements. Mr. Brunken has met with much success in general farming and stock raising, cultivating some one hundred acres of corn and eighty acres of small grain and raising on an average of one hundred and twenty-five head of hogs and many fine cattle each year.

When Brunke Brunken came to America he had but five dollars that he could call his own, yet he possessed a determination to make good, and by hard work and close application to business has succeeded, being now recognized as one of the substantial and influential men of the township. To such men as Mr. Brunken Plymouth county owes much for its high position among the counties of the state. He has helped to develop its natural resources and to place its schools and civic affairs on a high plain of efficiency.

In 1894 Brunke Brunken was united in marriage to Catherine (Dirks) Otken, who also was born in Ost Friesland, daughter of John H. Dirks and wife, and to this union eight children have been born as follow: Renke, Rika, John, Etta, Herman, Fred and Bruno. Renke Brunken married Minnie Renken and has four children, George, Harry, Rose and Mildred. Rika Brunken married Gerhart Renken and has four children, Harriet, Herman, William and Luella. Etta Brunken married William Johnson.

John H. Dirks and wife also were natives of Ost Friesland, Germany, and continued to live there until 1881, when they came to the United States with their family and located in Plymouth county, Iowa, where the father engaged in general farming for a number of years, after which he removed to South Dakota, where he purchased a farm and engaged in general farming and stock raising until his retirement and return to Plymouth county, he and his wife now living in a cozy little cottage on the Brunken farm. They were the parents of six children, Catherine, Christina, Meta, Harm, Derk and Rika.

Mr. and Mrs. Brunken are active members of the German Lutheran church of Grant township, this county, and have long been active in the social and religious life of the community in which they live, and where they are held in the highest regard and esteem by all who know them. Their lives have been active ones and they have devoted their best efforts to the

welfare of their children and to the development of the township: It has been by hard work and close economy that they have succeeded in making for themselves one of the well-established homes in this section of the state. Mr. Brunken has ever taken an active interest in local affairs and has for some years been the efficient road boss of his district.

EDWARD F. COBB.

Edward F. Cobb, a well-known and successful business man of Akron, this county, was born in West Union, Iowa, on April 5, 1867, the son of David and Ann (Carpenter) Cobb.

Leonard Cobb, the paternal grandfather of Edward F. Cobb, was a native of Canada, who came to the United States and located near Portage City, Wisconsin, where he engaged in farming until the time of his death. David Cobb was born near Kingston, Canada, while Ann (Carpenter) Cobb was born near Portage City, Wisconsin, the former born in 1838, and the latter, December 24, 1846. Both located at West Union in youth, and there they were married. For many years, or until about 1876, David Cobb engaged in farming. He then engaged in the flour and feed business at West Union and remained thus engaged until the time of his death in August, 1912. It was one of his greatest regrets that he did not get to serve in the Union army during the Civil War. He enlisted three times, but at each examination was rejected. He and his wife were the parents of three children, Edward F., Horace L. and Loretta B. Horace Cobb is a teamster at Kilbourn, Wisconsin, and Loretta married J. E. Peery and lives at Tacoma, Washington.

Edward F. Cobb received his education in the public schools of West Union and there grew to manhood. At the early age of sixteen he managed a flour and feed store and continued in that work until he was twenty years of age, at which time he accepted a clerkship in a drug store, where he remained for over two years. He then entered Iowa State University, where he completed the course in pharmacy and thus qualified became a licensed druggist on December 27, 1889. After completing his school work he engaged in his chosen vocation, first at Sheffield, Iowa, where he remained for over two years, after which he was engaged, in turn, at Mason City, New Albion and Spencer. In 1897 Mr. Cobb located at Akron and there established himself in business, purchasing the drug stock of Joe Gallagher.

His first location was where the Will Simmons bakery is now located, and there he remained for two years, at the end of which time he purchased the Lee Wilson store and combined the two and moved to his present place of business. Here he has an up-to-date store and carries a full line of all drugs, paints, oils, wall-paper and toilet articles. In addition to his store, Mr. Cobb is the owner of three farms in South Dakota, which he rents.

On December 22, 1893, Edward F. Cobb was united in marriage to Cora B. Griggs, who was born at Iowa Falls, this state, September 13, 1869, daughter of Orland and Mary Griggs, natives of the state of New York and early settlers in Wisconsin, but who later moved to Nebraska, where the father died. The mother died on May 5, 1914, at the home of Mrs. Cobb. Mr. and Mrs. Cobb are the parents of two children, Helen, the wife of V. G. Adams, of Sioux Valley, and Inez Louise, at home. Mr. Cobb is a member of the Masonic order and Mrs. Cobb is a member of the Baptist church.

DICK BOHLKEN.

Dick Bohlken, of Bohlken Brothers, who conduct an up-to-date livery and feed barn at Akron, this county, was born in this county on October 19, 1882, the son of Siefke and Margaret (Wilms) Bohlken, both natives of Germany, where they were married and where they resided until about 1867, when they came to Iowa and settled in Jones county, where Mr. Bohlken worked as a farm hand until 1870. They then came to Plymouth county and settled in Preston township, where Mr. Bohlken engaged in farming, and soon took a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres of wild prairie land. He at once built a small sod house and began the task of breaking his ground and in a short time had the greater part of his farm ready for cultivation. He later purchased forty acres of railroad land, which he broke and put under cultivation. He engaged in general farming and stock raising, and also bought and sold much land. In addition to his fine farm in Plymouth county he owned one hundred and sixty acres of good land in North Dakota, as well as much other property. For many years he has been recognized as one of the substantial and influential men of the township. He took much interest in the civic life of the community and held many of the important offices of the township.

Siefke and Margaret Bohlken in early life became active members of the Methodist Episcopal church and were for many years prominent in the work

of that denomination. Mrs. Bohlken died in 1902 and in 1908 Mr. Bohlken retired from the farm and moved to Le Mars, where he now lives, a highly respected citizen of that place. Mr. and Mrs. Bohlken were the parents of the following children: Will, Sophia, John, Mary, Martha, Anna, Dick, Will, George, Maggie, Henry, Lydia and Albert. Will died in infancy; Sophia married Ed Aldrich and lives in Le Mars; John is engaged in general farming and lives in Preston township; Mary is the wife of Garrett Luschen, of Pipestone, Minnesota; Martha is the wife of Chris Brown and lives in Moville, Iowa; Anna became the wife of Martin Gable, a well-known farmer of Preston township; Dick and Will are twins; George is devoted to general farming and stock raising on the old homestead; Maggie married Will Guidian and lives in Le Mars; Henry died at the age of twenty years, while living in Texas; Lydia is at the home of her father at Le Mars, and Albert is a soldier, at this time serving on the Mexican border.

Dick Bohlken received his education in the schools of Preston township and grew to manhood on the home farm, where as a lad he assisted his father with the work on the farm. He later operated the home farm for a time, as well as the father's farm at Le Mars. In 1912 he and his brother Will established a livery and feed barn at Akron, under the firm name of Bohlken Brothers. They erected a building ninety by one hundred and forty-two feet long on Mill street, where they are still engaged in the business. Mr. Bohlken is a Republican and takes an active interest in local affairs.

CHARLES GRANT BRADY.

Charles Grant Brady, cashier of the Akron Savings Bank at Akron, this county, is a native of the state of Wisconsin, but has been a resident of Akron the greater part of the time since he was thirteen years old. He was born on a farm in Green county, Wisconsin, January 12, 1869, son of John H. and Kate H. (Reed) Brady, natives of Pennsylvania, who were married in the latter state, later moving to Wisconsin, becoming early settlers in Green county, where they made their home until they came to Iowa and located at Akron, later moving to Vermillion, South Dakota, where both are now living at a green old age.

It was in 1882 that John H. Brady, who was a well-to-do farmer in Wisconsin, moved with his family to Akron, where he established with J. C. Button the Bank of Akron, the first bank organized at that place, and for a

number of years served as the president of that bank. He also was the owner of a small farm in the immediate vicinity of Akron and for years was regarded as one of the most influential and substantial residents of that town. More than twenty-five years ago he retired from active business and he and his wife are now living at Vermillion, South Dakota. To them seven children were born, of whom the subject of this biographical sketch was the fourth in order of birth, the others being as follow: Baxter, deceased; Minnie, deceased; William, who is farming in South Dakota; Sada, who married William Simons, a farmer, now living at Vermillion, South Dakota; Ruth, who married Alfred Hallam, an attorney and real-estate dealer at Sioux City, and John, deceased.

Charles G. Brady spent his early boyhood on the home farm in Green county, Wisconsin, receiving his elementary schooling in the local schools there, and was about thirteen years of age when his parents moved to Akron, where his schooling was completed in the high school. As a young man he engaged in the restaurant business at Akron in partnership with C. M. Hilliker, later buying his partner's interest in the business and was engaged in that business for about two years, at the end of which time he formed a business connection, under the firm name of Ross, Wakeman & Brady, and engaged in the sale of lumber and agricultural implements at Akron, the firm also buying and selling live stock, and was thus engaged until 1891, in which year he disposed of his interests there and went to Edgerton, in Pipestone county, Minnesota, where he started a new bank, the Bank of Edgerton, and for ten years remained there, cashier and manager of the bank and also the manager of a lumber yard at that place. In 1901 Mr. Brady disposed of his interests at Edgerton and returned to Akron, where he bought an interest in the Akron Savings Bank, of which he was made a director and of which he since then has been the cashier, being regarded as one of the leading factors in the business life of that flourishing little city, ever active in the work of promoting all movements having to do with the advancement of the general interests of his home town and of the county at large. Mr. Brady is a Scottish Rite Mason and a Noble of the Ancient Arabic Order of Nobles of the Mystic Shrine.

In 1893, at Edgerton, Minnesota, Charles G. Brady was united in marriage to Hilda Peterson, of that place, and to this union five children have been born, Esther (deceased), Ruth, Joyce, Arnold and Eldon. The Bradys have a very pleasant home at Akron and take a proper interest in the general social activities of the town.

HENNING SHOULBERG.

Henning Shoulberg, cashier of the First National Bank of Akron, this county, member of the city council of that city and of the city school board, is a native son of this part of the country and has lived hereabout all his life. He was born on a pioneer farm in Sioux Valley township, in the neighboring county of Union, over the river in South Dakota, on May 10, 1878, son of Peter and Elsa (Dietrich) Shoulberg, natives of the kingdom of Sweden and pioneers of Union county, who are still living on the old home place there.

It was in the year 1871 that Peter Shoulberg came to this country from his native Sweden. He at first settled in Michigan, where he secured employment as a mechanic in a saw-mill in the timber woods and where in Indiana he worked for five years, or until 1876, about the time of his marriage, when he came West and bought a quarter section of unimproved land in Sioux Valley township, Union county, South Dakota, where he established his home and where he has lived ever since. Upon taking possession of his place Mr. Shoulberg constructed a sod house and there made his home until a more commodious and substantial dwelling could be erected. He lost little time in improving and developing his place and it was not long until he was recognized as one of the most substantial farmers in his neighborhood. His farm, on which he still makes his home, is now looked upon as one of the best improved farms in that township. To him and his wife three children were born, of whom the subject of this sketch was the first-born, the others being Hilma, who married S. W. Fredell, who is now engaged in the real-estate business at Akron, and Bertel, who has remained with his father on the farm.

Reared on the home farm in Union county, Henning Shoulberg received his elementary schooling in the district schools of his home neighborhood and supplemented the same by a course in the Metropolitan Commercial College at Sioux City, from which he was graduated in 1899. He then continued on the old home place, a valued assistant in the labors of developing and improving the same, until his appointment in 1905 to the position of deputy in the office of register of deeds at Elk Point. A year later Mr. Shoulberg was offered a position as bookkeeper in the First National Bank at Akron and accepted the same. Two years later he was promoted to the position of assistant cashier of the bank and four years later, in 1912, was advanced to the responsible position of cashier of the bank, which position he now occupies, one of the best-known figures in banking circles in this part of the state. Since taking up his residence in Akron Mr. Shoulberg has ever taken a good

citizen's interest in local civic affairs and is now a member of the city council, while for more than five years past he has served as a member of the city school board.

In 1910 Henning Shoulberg was united in marriage to Helen Robinson, of Sioux City, this state, and to this union two children have been born, a son and a daughter, John Robinson and Elizabeth. Mr. and Mrs. Shoulberg are members of the Swedish Lutheran church and take a proper interest in the various beneficences of the same, as well as in the general social activities of their home town. Mr. Shoulberg is a Mason and takes a warm interest in Masonic affairs.

HARRY L. SMITH.

Harry L. Smith, foreman of the mechanical department of the *Register-Tribune* at Akron, this county, was born at Spirit Lake, this state, October 5, 1873, eldest of the three sons of John A and Anna (Middleton) Smith, a history of which family is set out in a biographical sketch relating to Ray A. Smith, brother of the subject of this sketch and the proprietor of the *Register-Tribune*, presented elsewhere in this volume.

Beginning his apprenticeship as a printer in his father's newspaper office at Spirit Lake when a boy, Harry L. Smith has been engaged in the printing trade all his life. When the family moved from Spirit Lake to Sioux City he entered the employ of the *Sioux City Journal* and was engaged on that paper and other papers there, including the once-a-week paper his father established there, and also assisted his father during the latter's incumbency in the office of the county surveyor of that county, and when the elder Smith moved to Akron and established the *Tribune*, he became connected with the latter paper, and upon his father's death in 1897 he and his brothers, Ray and Allan, assumed the management of the paper. In 1901, at the time the *Tribune* was consolidated with the *Register*, Harry L. Smith sold his interest in the paper and returned to Sioux City, where he worked in a job office until 1907, in which year he returned to Akron and since then has been foreman of the plant of his brother's paper, the *Register-Tribune*, at that place.

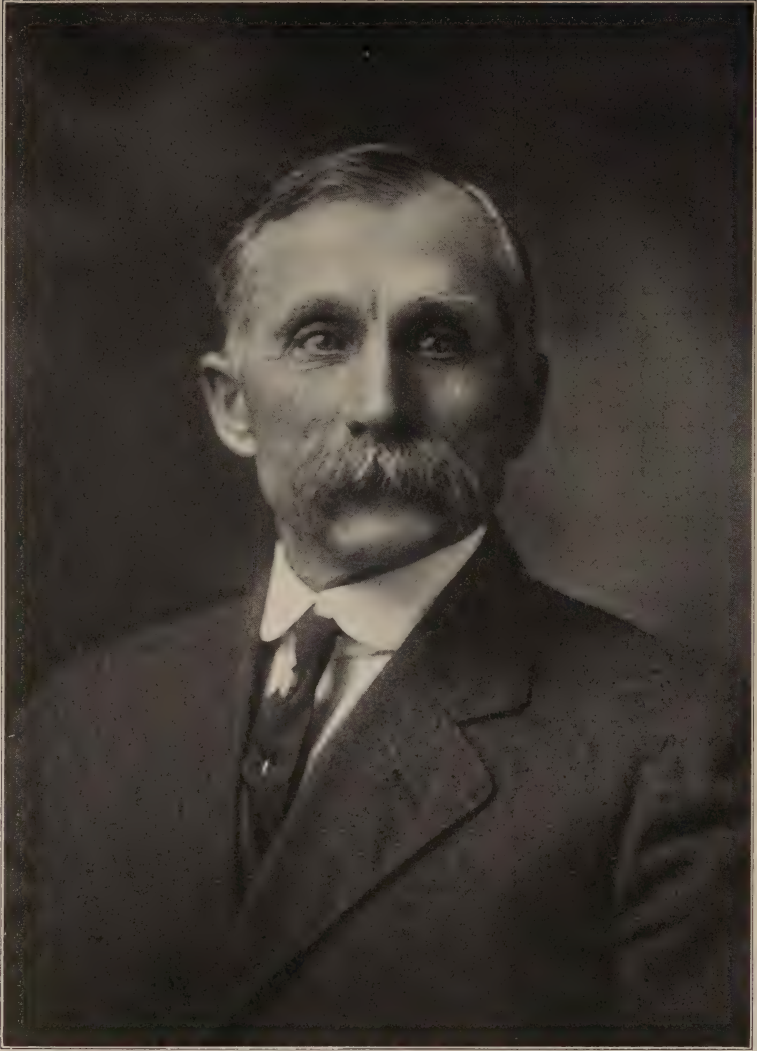
In 1897 Harry L. Smith was united in marriage to Jessie Webster, and to this union three children have been born, Hazel, Raymond and Harold, the latter of whom was killed in an automobile accident when six years of age. Mr. Smith is a member of the local branch of the International Printing Pressmen's Union at Sioux City and of the Modern Woodmen of America, in the affairs of both of which organizations he takes a warm interest.

GEORGE BUEHLER.

George Buehler one of the well-known and successful farmers and stockmen of Elgin township, this county, was born in Lake county, Indiana, on August 15, 1853, son of Peter and Lucy Buehler, natives of Wittenberg, Germany, who were married in the land of their nativity, shortly afterward coming to America and settling in Lake county, Indiana, where they established themselves on a farm. There they remained until 1864, when they sold the place and moved to Kankakee county, Illinois, where they rented a farm for a time and then purchased a tract of land in that county, where they spent the rest of their lives, earnest members of the German Methodist Episcopal church and respected residents of that community. They were the parents of eleven children, four of whom are now living, George, John, Peter and Mrs. Charlotte Weis, the two former of whom are living in Plymouth county.

George Buehler received his education in the schools of Illinois and there grew to manhood. On completing his work in the public schools, he learned the carpenter's trade, which he followed for some years. After his marriage he engaged in farming and in 1884 moved to Spink county, South Dakota, where he purchased a farm of one hundred and sixty acres and farmed there for eight years. It was in 1892 that he came to Plymouth county and here he and his brother John bought one hundred and sixty acres of land in Elgin township, which they farmed in partnership for fourteen years, at the end of which time George Buehler purchased his brother's share in the farm, and later added to the tract until he became the owner of two hundred and forty acres of excellent land, all of which he placed under a high state of cultivation and on which he made valuable improvements. There he engaged in general farming and stock raising with much success for many years or until his retirement from the activities of the life some years ago, though he has continued to maintain his residence on the farm. His son, John Oliver Buehler, is now farming the old home farm with much success.

In 1877 George Buehler was united in marriage to Hannah Obrecht, daughter of Jacob and Susannah (Hertz) Obrecht, and to this union ten children have been born, eight of whom are now living as follow: Susannah A., wife of Clarence Comcilman; Ellen V., wife of George Kuhler; Lucy Harriet, wife of J. C. Schafer; Mary Alice, a graduate registered nurse; George H., who married Gertrude Roche and now has a government posi-



GEORGE BUEHLER



MRS. HANNAH BUEHLER

tion on the Panama canal; John Oliver, who is farming the home place; Clarence E., who is attending the Wesleyan College in South Dakota, and Clara M., at home. Mr. and Mrs. Buehler are active members of the German Methodist Episcopal church at Le Mars and take much interest in church work, Mr. Buehler at present being a member of the board of trustees of the church and one of the progressive men of the organization. He is an independent voter, but has always taken a keen interest in local affairs and is a strong believer in the establishment and maintenance of the best of public schools and the building of good roads, for in these he feels that the future prosperity and growth of the township as well as of the county depends. He is a man of broad views and excellent judgment and is often consulted in matters relating to the civic affairs of the community in which he has lived for so many years, and in the development of which he has taken such an active and prominent part.

CHARLES MAHLON HILLIKER.

Charles Mahlon Hilliker, proprietor of a machine shop at Akron, for years one of the best-known building contractors there and who now is also operating there one of the leading garages and automobile repair shops in this part of the state, is a native of the great Empire state, but has lived in the West since he was little more than an infant. He was born near the city of Buffalo, New York, April 11, 1856, son of James O. and Adeline Frances (Williams) Hilliker, the former of whom died in Andersonville prison while serving as a soldier of the Union during the Civil War, and the latter of whom became a pioneer of Plymouth county and here spent her last days, her death occurring in Le Mars.

It was in 1858 that James O. Hilliker and his family moved from New York State to Wisconsin, accompanying a party, including several members of Mrs. Hilliker's family, and settled in Columbia county. In April, 1861, following President Lincoln's first call for volunteers to put down the Rebellion, James O. Hilliker enlisted as a member of Company B, Seventh Regiment, Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, and went to the front, serving with that command until he was wounded in 1864 and was sent to the hospital, from which he presently made his escape and attempted to rejoin his regiment. He was captured by the enemy and was known to have been incarcerated in Andersonville prison, a message to which effect was the last word ever

received concerning him by his family, the presumption being that he perished in that horrible prison pen along with countless other Union soldiers, unaccounted for by their captors. His widow was the daughter of William and Harriet Williams, natives of New York state, the former a blacksmith, who moved from New York to Wisconsin in 1858 and settled at a point about nine miles south of Beaver Dam and six and one-half miles north of Columbus, where William Williams opened a general store and also set up a blacksmith shop. In 1863 he moved from Wisconsin to Minnesota, locating in Waseca county, that state, but soon moved back to Wisconsin and settled in Waushara county, whence, in 1886, he moved to Iowa and located at Akron, this county, where he lived for a year, at the end of which time he moved back to Wisconsin and there he and his wife spent their last days, dying within two weeks of each other, both then being past ninety years of age. They were the parents of four children, namely: Albert James, a farmer, living in the neighborhood of Hancock, in Waushara county, Wisconsin; Adeline Frances, mother of the subject of this sketch; Alpheus George, who died at Akron, this county, in 1910, and Angeline May, who died on a train while being taken from Chicago to a hospital at Cincinnati. To James O. and Adeline Frances (Williams) Hilliker three children were born, of whom the subject of this sketch was the first-born, the others being Mary, who died at the age of two years, and F. James, who is now living at Mt. Vernon, Washington.

Some time after the close of the war Mrs. Hilliker married W. J. Chatman and in August, 1871, came to Iowa with her husband, who entered a homestead claim to an eighty-acre tract in section 22 of Johnson township, this county, and there put up a small dwelling of rough boards, covering the same with sod and roofing it with tarred-paper and sod. In that little house, fourteen by sixteen feet in dimensions, the family made their home for two years, at the end of which time Mr. Chatman sold his homestead and moved to Nebraska, where he engaged in the mercantile business, starting a rural store, which he conducted for a couple of years, after which he went to California on a prospecting trip and there died. His widow returned to Plymouth county and for two or three years thereafter made her home with her son, the subject of this sketch, who had settled at Akron in the meantime. In 1877 she married J. H. Goodyear, who was farming near Le Mars, and some years later retired from the farm and with her husband moved to Le Mars, where she spent her last days and where Mr. Goodyear lived until his daughter, Eva May, married, and now is making his home again on the farm. By her mar-

riage to Mr. Chatman she was the mother of two sons, William and Wilbert, twins; and by her third marriage was the mother of one child, a daughter, Eva, who married Jacob Weber, who is farming near Le Mars.

Charles M. Hilliker received his schooling in the rural schools of Wisconsin, to which state his parents had moved from New York, his native state, when he was two years old, and was about fifteen years of age when he came to Iowa, driving a team through for the family to Dubuque. When but a lad he had started to learn the blacksmith and wheelwright trades under the direction of his grandfather and step-father, and when fourteen was an expert wheel-maker. After his arrival at Dubuque he worked on a farm in that vicinity during the summer of 1871 and in the fall of that year joined his mother and his step-father on their homestead farm in Johnson township, this county, where he spent the following winter. During the next two years he worked at various places in southeastern South Dakota, working in saw-mills and at railroad grade work and in 1874 bought a tract of forty acres of railroad land in Johnson township, this county, and there constructed a dug-out, and in that humble abode established his home, he having married in 1875. He rented some adjoining land from Mrs. Robert Stinton and farmed there for some time, after which he engaged in the building trades in the employ of Wallace Fuller, with whom he remained for three years, becoming thoroughly familiar with the details of carpentering and masonry work. Thus equipped for business, Mr. Hilliker then engaged as a building contractor on his own account and in that capacity built many of the early houses in and around Akron, including some of the best residences and business houses in the town. In 1887, as an adjunct to his building operations, Mr. Hilliker erected a blacksmith and wood-working shop on the banks of the Sioux river, the same operated by water power, and continued operations there until 1891, when he moved his shop to larger quarters in the block west of his present shop and there remained two years, at the end of which time he erected his present shop, to which he has since then made considerable additions. In 1906, in connection with his shop, he started a garage and automobile repair shop, and now is operating that department of the business in a substantial concrete-block building, erected recently. In the meantime Mr. Hilliker has continued his building operations and one of the last large contracts filled by him was the erection of the handsome stone building of the Akron Savings Bank, one of the most substantial and up-to-date buildings in northwestern Iowa.

It was on November 17, 1875, that Charles M. Hilliker was united in

marriage to Mary E. Houghton, who was born in England and who had come to this country with her parents when but a girl, and to this union eight children have been born: Wilbert, James, Arvilla May (deceased), George Henry (deceased), Edward Blaine, Adeline Frances, Waldo Ivan and a baby who died in infancy. The Hillikers have a pleasant home at Akron and have ever taken an interested part in the general social life of the community.

Mr. Hilliker is a member of Freedom Lodge No. 434, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, and both he and his wife are members of the local chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star. For eleven years Mr. Hilliker was secretary of the local Masonic lodge and has filled all the chairs in that lodge. He also is a member of the local lodge of the Modern Woodmen of America.

E. P. KLAUER.

E. P. Klauer, president of the Klauer-Swanson Company, incorporated, at Akron, this county, hardware, furniture, plumbing, tinning and undertaking, and one of the best known and most enterprising business men in Plymouth county, is a native son of Iowa and has lived in this state all his life. He was born in the city of Dubuque on May 16, 1872, son of Jacob and Katherine (Burkhard) Klauer, both natives of Germany, former residents of Le Mars, this county, but whose last days were spent at Dubuque.

Jacob Klauer was born in the duchy of Nassau, son of John Klauer and wife, the former a potter by trade, who came to the United States when the son Jacob was six years of age, and located in Dubuque, this state, where they spent the rest of their lives. There Jacob Klauer grew to manhood and learned the tanners' trade, later going to Chicago, where he followed his trade and where, about 1870, he married Katherine Burkhard, also a native of Germany, born in the state of Hesse-Darmstadt, daughter of Martin Burkhard and wife, who came to the United States, locating at Chicago, where for some years Martin Burkhard followed the vocation of a teamster, later going to Alabama, where he settled on a farm and where he spent the rest of his life. About a year after his marriage in Chicago Jacob Klauer returned to Dubuque, where he established his home and where he engaged in the tinning and hardware business in connection with his brother, Peter, a partnership which continued for about five years, at the end of which time Peter Klauer took over the business. In 1882 Jacob Klauer disposed of his interests at Dubuque and moved over to this part of the state, locating at Le Mars, where

he became engaged as tinner in the establishment of Haas & Huebsch, remaining with that concern for five years, at the end of which time he started a tin shop of his own across the street from the old Dubuque house. Two years later he disposed of that interest and moved to Marcus, where he opened another tin shop and also engaged in the hotel business, his hotel being called the Central House, and continued in business there until 1896, when he returned to Dubuque, going into the manufacturing establishment conducted there by his brother, under the name of the Klauer Manufacturing Company, and was foreman of the same until his death in October, 1914, death coming to him very suddenly, while he was on duty in the shop. His widow survived him but a year, her death occurring at Dubuque in 1915. They were the parents of ten children, three of whom died in infancy and of whom the subject of this sketch is the eldest, the others being as follow: Carl W., a tinner, foreman of the plant of the Klauer Manufacturing Company at Dubuque; J. M., editor and publisher of the *Cassville Record* at Cassville, Wisconsin; George N., who owns a shoe store on Clay street in the city of Dubuque; J. B., a partner of E. P. in the Klauer-Swanson Company at Akron; Adelaide, who is housekeeper for a priest at Buena Vista, this state, and Mamie, who is a saleswoman in a dry-goods house at Dubuque.

E. P. Klauer was about ten years of age when his father moved from Dubuque to Le Mars and was about seventeen when the family moved to Marcus. His schooling therefore was obtained in the schools of these three places and meanwhile he was becoming thoroughly trained in the details of the tinning business under the skillful direction of his father, with whom he worked until he was twenty years old, after which he started out for himself and was for six months engaged working at his trade in Cherokee, six months at Le Mars, nine months in Lyon county and two months in Sioux City. In 1893 he arrived at Akron and took employment with Gleason & Son, remaining with them until they sold out to Bly Brothers and was with the latter until they sold out to Whitfield and remained with the latter until 1906, in which year, his health failing him, he decided to seek the advantage of farm life as a means of restoring him to his normal condition. With this end in view he rented a farm of four hundred and twenty acres near Westfield and farmed the same for two years, at the end of which time, in 1908, he formed a partnership with his brother, J. B. Klauer and F. J. Swanson in the hardware, furniture, plumbing, tinning and undertaking business at Akron, and has ever since been thus engaged. In 1908 the Klauer brothers bought out the Swanson interest in the establishment and are now the owners of the same,

though retaining the original firm name of the Klauer-Swanson Company, incorporated. They have a well-equipped store and carry an ample stock of goods in their line. The undertaking department of the business is presided over by F. Koch, a licensed embalmer, who is employed to give that department his special attention.

In 1898 E. P. Klauer was united in marriage to Julia Ross, of Akron, and to this union twelve children have been born, namely: Lucile, who died in infancy; Naomi, a student in the Akron high school, and Gertrude, Edward, Bernard, Richard, James, Julia, Dorothy, Philip, Eugene and Katherine. The Klauers are members of the Catholic church and take a proper interest in parish affairs, as well as in the general social activities of their home town. Mr. Klauer is a Democrat, but while giving a good citizen's attention to local civic affairs, has not been a seeker after public office, preferring to give his undivided attention to his growing business affairs, and has long been regarded as one of the leading business men in the thriving city of Akron.

PATRICK X. O'RIELLY.

Patrick X. O'Rielly, a well-known and substantial retired pioneer farmer of this region, now living at Akron, this county, is a native of the Emerald Isle, but has been a resident of this country since the days of his early childhood and of this region since pioneer days. He was born in County Kerry, Ireland, March 13, 1845, son of Patrick and Mary (Scanlon) O'Rielly, natives of that same county, who came across the water with their family in 1849 and settled in Canada, making their home at Smith's Falls, Ontario, about forty miles north of the St. Lawrence River, until 1865, in which year they moved to Pennsylvania and located in Venango county, that state, remaining there for about three years, or until 1868, when they decided to come West and take advantage of the free land then open to settlers in this part of the country. With that end in view they came out here, their point of destination being Sioux City, and after a bit of prospecting settled in Union county, South Dakota, where Patrick O'Rielly pre-empted a quarter of a section of land and there established his home, building a rude log house with a sod roof, and settled down to break and cultivate the soil. He later homesteaded another quarter section near Beresford and in 1874 moved to the latter place, which he proceeded to develop and on which both he and his wife spent the rest of their lives, her death occurring about 1886 and his, about

twenty-five years ago. They were members of the Catholic church and their children were reared in that faith. There were seven of these children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the third in order of birth, the others being as follow: John, who died at Beresford in December, 1914; Mary, who married Edward O'Connor and died in Pennsylvania; Bridget, who married J. W. White and lives at Beresford; Johanna, widow of E. J. Ressigee, living at Sioux City; Robert, who lives on White river, near Draper, South Dakota, and Katherine, who married T. J. Ryan and died near Newcastle, Pennsylvania.

Patrick X. O'Rielly was about five years of age when his parents emigrated to Canada and was twenty when the family moved to Pennsylvania, where he worked in the oil fields until he came with the family to this part of the country in 1868 and settled in Union county. There he helped his father to break the soil and improve the homestead farm and at the same time entered on his own behalf a homestead claim to a quarter section adjoining that of his father and after his marriage in 1874 established his home there. As he prospered in his farming operations, Mr. O'Rielly bought another tract of land adjoining his homestead and some more farther south and is now the owner of six hundred and twenty-seven acres of choice land, which he is renting to advantage. About 1888 he retired from the active labors of the farm and moved to Sioux City, where he remained a year, at the end of which time he moved to Akron, where he ever since has made his home and where he is very comfortably situated. At one time he was the owner of a half interest in the Knutson elevator, but some time ago practically retired from the pursuit of active business and is now "taking things easy." Mr. O'Rielly is a Democrat and has ever given a good citizen's attention to local civic affairs, but has never been included in the office-seeking class.

In 1874 Patrick X. O'Rielly was united in marriage to Katherine Coleman, who was born in Ontario, Canada, daughter of John Coleman and wife, who settled in Union county, neighbors of the O'Riellys, about 1880, and to this union three children have been born, namely: Mary Winifred, who married Frank J. Coyle, who is farming the old O'Rielly home farm, and has two children, Catherine Carmel and Patrick Everet; Patrick Elmer, who died at the age of twenty-four years, and Grace Loretta, who married Willard F. Keane and has two children, Mary Catherine and Loretta Eileen. The O'Riellys are members of the Catholic church and take a proper interest in parish affairs. Mr. O'Rielly is a member of the Knights of Columbus and takes a warm interest in the affairs of that organization.

WILBERT S. FREEMAN.

Wilbert S. Freeman, an honored veteran of the Civil War, former recorder of Plymouth county, former postmaster of Le Mars and a well-to-do citizen of this county, now living retired at his comfortable home in Le Mars, is a native of the old Green Mountain state, but has been a resident of Plymouth county since 1869. He has thus been a witness to and a participant in the development of this county since pioneer days, few men hereabout having a wider or more accurate fund of information regarding the early days of this section of Iowa than he. Mr. Freeman was born at Essex, Chittenden county, Vermont, June 6, 1847, son of Samuel A. and Almira A. (Stevens) Freeman, the latter of whom was born in that same place. Samuel A. Freeman was born on February 20, 1820, and died in 1884. His wife had long preceded him to the grave, her death having occurred in 1862. Mr. Freeman's paternal grandparents were residents of Massachusetts and his maternal grandparents, of Connecticut, representatives of old colonial families, and ancestors on both sides of the family fought as soldiers in the patriot army during the Revolutionary War.

Mr. Freeman moved from Vermont to Illinois with his parents in 1855, he then being but eight years of age, and he was living in that state when the Civil War broke out. Though but a boy at the time, he enlisted for service and served as a musician in Company B, Eighth Illinois Cavalry. Upon the completion of his military service, he returned to Illinois and remained there until in March, 1869, when he came to Iowa and settled in Plymouth county, where he has resided ever since. Mr. Freeman is a Republican and served as recorder of Plymouth county during the years 1884-85-86-87, and as postmaster at Le Mars from January 29, 1906, to May 1, 1915. As noted above, there are few, if any, persons in Plymouth county who have a wider acquaintance with people and events in this part of the state and his service as editor of the historical volume of this work has been highly appreciated by all connected with the compilation thereof, rendering at the same time an invaluable service to the community at large. Mr. Freeman is a Knight Templar Mason and a member of the local post of the Grand Army of the Republic and he and his wife are members of the Congregational church. Mrs. Freeman, whose maiden name was Mary Adams, was born in Canada. The Freemans have a very pleasant home at No. 1100 Madison street, Le Mars, and have ever taken a proper part in the general social and cultural activities of their home town. Mr. Freeman is the owner of two



W. S. FREEMAN

hundred acres of land in Clay county, South Dakota, and is regarded as one of this county's substantial and influential citizens, his influence ever having been exerted in behalf of the promotion of all movements having to do with the advancement of the common welfare hereabout.

LEWIS F. ROOT.

Lewis F. Root, a well-known and substantial farmer of Portland township, this county, now living retired at Akron, where he and his family are very pleasantly situated, is a native of the old Buckeye state, but has been a resident of Iowa since 1883, coming here by way of Missouri, in which latter state he had made his home since he was about fourteen years of age. He was born on a farm in Athens county, Ohio, January 27, 1852, son of Levi and Polly (Stewart) Root, the former a native of the state of New York and the latter of Ohio.

Levi Root was born in Livingston county, New York, April 11, 1809, son of Jonathan and Betsy (Chamberlain) Root, natives of Vermont, whose later residence was in New York and then in Ohio. Jonathan Root, who was a soldier of the War of 1812, moved to Washington county, Ohio, in 1814, became a landowner there and there spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring about 1865. He and his wife were the parents of a considerable family of children. Their son, Levi Root, spent his early days in Washington county, Ohio, and after his marriage to Polly Stewart moved to a farm in Athens county, same state, where his wife died in 1855. He later married Rachel Cohen, of Wilford, Ohio, and in 1867 moved to Grundy county, Missouri, where his wife owned land, and there he spent the rest of his life, a substantial farmer. By his first marriage Levi Root was the father of twelve children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the last-born, the others being Ezra Stewart, Harriet, Daniel O., Sarah Jane, William Henry, Rosmer, John Wesley, Ruth Elizabeth, Charles Levi, Lawrence E. and Francis Marion. Of these sons, six, Stewart, Daniel, William Henry, John Wesley, Charles Levi and Lawrence E., served as Union soldiers during the Civil War and William Henry Root was killed at the battle of Perryville, Kentucky.

As noted above, Lewis F. Root was about fourteen years of age when he moved from Ohio to Missouri with his father. In the latter state he com-

pleted his schooling and made his home with his brother, Wesley, until his marriage, in Missouri, in 1875, after which he made his home on a farm there until the spring of 1883, when he moved to Iowa and took a homestead claim in this county, the southeast quarter of section 23 of Portland township, erected a small frame house on the same and there established a new home. He planted a nice grove, made substantial improvements, later erected a fine new residence and there made his home until 1911, in which year he sold his farm and with his family moved to Akron, where he bought a comfortable house and where he and his family are now living. Mr. Root is a Republican and during his residence on the farm was for seven years trustee of Portland township. He also served for several years as a member of the school board and in other ways contributed of his time and his energies to the public service.

It was on February 25, 1875, while living in Missouri, that Lewis F. Root was united in marriage to Sarah E. Pollock, who also was born in the state of Ohio, and to this union seven children have been born, namely: Roy, a real-estate dealer at Akron, who was elected clerk of Plymouth county in 1916, who married Mamie Dee and has six children; Dolly Leone, who married Levi Cross, proprietor of an ice cream manufactory and bottling works at Akron, and has two children; Donald and Dorothy; Dr. Ralph Eugene Root, professor of mathematics in the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis, further mention of whom is made below; Edith, who is at home with her parents; Blaine, now farming in Union county, South Dakota, who married Minnie Straider and has two children, Bonnie and Jean; Anna, who married Charles Gostin, a merchant, of Wynot, Nebraska, and has one child, and Ross, now farming in Union county, South Dakota, who married May Montague, and has two children, Vivian and Robert. Mr. and Mrs. Root are members of the Methodist church and have for years taken an active interest in the various beneficences of the same. Mr. Root is a Scottish Rite Mason, a member of the blue lodge at Akron and of the consistory at Sioux City, and takes a warm interest in Masonic affairs. Both he and Mrs. Root are members of the local chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star, of which Mrs. Root was for some time the worthy matron and which their daughter, Edith, is now serving in that same capacity.

Dr. Ralph Eugene Root, professor of mathematics in the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis, instructor of that exacting branch in the post-graduate department of the academy, received excellent training for the important post he now occupies. He was born in Grundy county, Missouri, July 18, 1879, and was not yet four years of age when his parents came to

Plymouth county and settled on a homestead farm in Portland township. He assisted in the labors of the farm as a lad and completed the grades in the common schools of that township, supplementing the same by a term in the high school at Akron, after which he entered Morningside Academy at Sioux City, from which he was graduated in 1901. He then entered Morningside College and was graduated from the scientific course in that institution in 1905. During the winter of 1905-06 he taught mathematics and science in the high school at Forest City, and in the fall of 1906 entered the University of Iowa as an instructor and post-graduate student in mathematics and physics, remaining there four years, at the end of which time, in 1909, the University conferred upon him the degree of Master of Science. He then entered the University of Chicago as a fellow in mathematics, taking both mathematics and astronomy, and in 1911 received from that institution the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. Thus equipped, Doctor Root accepted a call to the University of Missouri and after serving for two years as a member of the faculty of that institution accepted the call to the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis, as instructor of the post-graduate class in mathematics, the highest course in mathematics taught in that institution, the position which he still occupies. Doctor Root is a member of Sigma Xi, the honorary scientific fraternity of the University of Iowa, and takes a warm interest in the affairs of the same.

It was on December 28, 1904, at Storm Lake, this state, that Dr. Ralph Eugene Root was united in marriage to Mary K. Batcheller, who was born in Portland township, this county, daughter of Alexander F. and Mary C. (Ballou) Batcheller, prominent residents of that community, whose last days were spent at Council Bluffs. Alexander F. Batcheller was born at Providence, Rhode Island, son of Dr. Alexander and Kezia (Wallen) Batcheller, who later became residents of Iowa, where their last days were spent. Dr. Alexander Batcheller was for some years a practicing physician at Providence, Rhode Island, leaving that place for southern Minnesota, where he practiced until coming to this state and settling near Cedar Falls, where both he and his wife spent their last days, his death occurring in the sixty-fifth year of his age. They were the parents of seven children, Francis L., Victoria E., Alexander F., Lucy D., Martha W., Moses F. and Stephen E.

Alexander F. Batcheller was a young man when his parents moved to the Cedar Falls neighborhood and he began farming there, making his home there until he came to Plymouth county and bought an eighty-acre homestead right to a tract of land in Portland township, on which place he made his home for twenty years, at the end of which time he moved to Council Bluffs,

where he spent his last days. Alexander F. Batcheller was twice married. On September 8, 1867, he was united in marriage to Addie Marcy and to that union two children were born, Evelyn and Nettie A. Upon the death of the mother of these children, Mr. Batcheller married, March 20, 1879, Mary C. Ballou, who was born in 1847, and to that union four children were born, those besides Mrs. Root, the first-born, being Martha W., William Earl and Emma M. Mrs. Mary C. Batcheller died on August 19, 1914. Mary K. Batcheller received her schooling in the high school at Hawarden, in the high school at Larabee and at the Iowa State Normal at Cedar Falls, after which for six years she taught school in and around Akron and was thus engaged at the time of her marriage to Doctor Root. To that union four children have been born, Olive, Lloyd, Charlotte and Ellis. Doctor and Mrs. Root are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and take a proper interest in the affairs of the same.

FRANK WAKEMAN.

Frank Wakeman, a well-to-do retired farmer, banker and landowner, now living at Akron, this county, where he has made his home since 1908, is a native of the state of Connecticut, but has been a resident of this part of the country since the days of his boyhood and has therefore been a witness to and a participant in the development of this region since pioneer days. He was born on a farm in Fairfield county, Connecticut, April 24, 1858, son of Lester and Phoebe (Adams) Wakeman, both of English descent and members of old families in that state, the latter of whom died in her native state and the former of whom later came to this part of the country and became one of the very first settlers in the neighboring county of Union, across the river in South Dakota, but whose last days were spent in this county, a prominent resident of the village of Akron, where he died on February 17, 1908, at the age of seventy-two years.

It was in the early sixties that Mrs. Phoebe Wakeman died at her home in Connecticut. Lester Wakeman then married Nancy Addis and in 1866 started West to make a new home for himself on the prairie in this part of the country. Proceeding by rail to St. Joseph, Missouri, he and his family proceeded up the river to Council Bluffs and there he bought an ox-team and a "prairie schooner" and began the long and toilsome drive over into the promising land of the Dakotas, which at that time had not been opened to

homestead, finally coming to a stop at a point on the prairie west of the Sioux river, about five miles north of the present city of Akron, in what is now Union county, South Dakota, but which then had not been organized for civic purposes. At that time Sioux Falls was but a military post and the present city of Elk Point, county seat of Union county, a settlement of but a few rude cabins. Indians still were plentiful hereabout in those days and there were no roads, no bridges and but few settlers in this whole region, the nearest neighbor of the Wakemans at the time they settled in Union county being a mile or more distant. In the absence of a homestead law at that time, Lester Wakeman simply settled at a desirable point near the river and there put up a rude log cabin, the roof of which was made of brush covered with sod, and there he established his home, the family thus becoming recognized as among the very earliest settlers of this region. During the years of the grasshopper visitations the Wakemans, along with all the pioneers hereabout endured privations and suffered hardships which drove many of the settlers back East, but they "held the fort" and presently began to prosper, Lester Wakeman after awhile becoming the owner of more than five hundred acres of well-improved land, on which he made his home until about 1886, when he retired from the active labors of the farm and moved to Akron, where he spent the rest of his life, his death occurring, as noted above, in 1908. From the very beginning of his residence in Union county, Lester Wakeman took an active part in local civic affairs, was one of the early county commissioners and also served for some time as county assessor. He also took an active part in the social life of the community and was an earnest member of the Masonic fraternity. In his youth he had been trained as a carpenter and wagon-maker, but after coming out here did not work much at those trades, although he frequently was called on in the early days to make coffins.

Lester Wakeman was thrice married. By his marriage to Phoebe Adams he was the father of three children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the first-born, the others being Hattie, who died in infancy, and George, who is now living near Epworth, North Dakota. Upon the death of his first wife, Mr. Wakeman married Nancy Addis, who accompanied him to the new home on the prairie, and to that union one child was born, a daughter, Lymanetta, who married D. K. Bennett and is now living at Chatsworth, in the neighboring county of Sioux. Following the death of his second wife Mr. Wakeman married Mrs. Harriet Cox, who is still living.

Frank Wakeman was about eight years of age when he came to this part of the country from Connecticut with his father, and his boyhood was

that of a pioneer lad on a raw prairie farm. Not until he was fourteen years old did he have the advantage of a school, for none was built in that neighborhood until then and that but a rude log school house in which summer terms of school were conducted, fuel then being far too precious to "waste" on heating the poorly constructed building during the winters. Later, however, he was able to attend a winter school at Hudson for awhile, working for his board while there. Being the eldest son, he was his father's mainstay on the farm and his efforts from the days of his boyhood were joined with those of his father toward the development and improvement of the home place. When he was twenty-two years of age he began working on his own account, working on farms and for the Northwestern Railroad and also taught school a couple of winters, and by the time he was twenty-three or twenty-four years of age had saved six hundred dollars, with which sum he bought a farm of one hundred and fifty-seven acres adjoining his father's place and after his marriage in 1884 established his home there. He erected good buildings on the place and brought it up to a high state of cultivation, and there made his home for fourteen years, at the end of which time he moved to Chatsworth, where he bought a grain elevator and for ten years thereafter was engaged in the grain business there and was also vice-president of the bank at that place. During those years Mr. Wakeman continued his investments in land and became the owner of six hundred and fifty-seven acres of land. In 1908 Mr. Wakeman disposed of some of his interests at Chatsworth and moved to Akron, where he bought a comfortable home, surrounded by six acres lying in the city limits, and has since then resided there. Before moving to Akron he had business interests there, having become a director of the First National Bank of that place at the time it was organized in 1904, and in 1908 was elected vice-president of the same, a position he since then has held. During his residence in Akron Mr. Wakeman has continued his land investments and since moving there has bought five hundred and twenty-nine acres of land, three hundred and seventy-two acres of which are situated in Plymouth county. Politically, Mr. Wakeman has been affiliated with the Democratic party ever since attaining his majority and has ever taken a close interest in local political affairs, but has never been an aspirant for public office.

It was in 1884 that Frank Wakeman was united in marriage to Josephine Hoyt, who also was born in the state of Connecticut, a daughter of Andrew and Ruth (Wakeman) Hoyt, who came out West in 1867, the year following the arrival of the Wakemans in this part of the country, and also settled in Union county, where Mrs. Hoyt spent her last days, Mr. Hoyt, in his old age,

returning to Connecticut, where his last days were spent. To Mr. and Mrs. Wakeman one child has been born, a daughter, Mildred. The Wakemans have a very pleasant home at Akron and take a proper interest in all movements having to do with the advancement of the common welfare hereabout.

GEORGE W. SCHRODER.

George W. Schroder, one of the best-known grain men in Plymouth county and the manager of an elevator at Remsen, is a native son of Wisconsin. He was born on a farm in Eden township, Iowa county, Wisconsin, March 29, 1873, son of C. F. and Mary I. (Harmes) Schroder, the former a native of Germany and the latter of Wisconsin, whose last days were spent in Wisconsin.

C. F. Schroder was but little more than two years of age when his parents came from their native Holstein to this country and settled in Grant county, Wisconsin, where he grew up on a pioneer farm. When twenty years of age he and his brother, Henry, started overland with a company of gold seekers for the gold fields of the Western coast, driving across the plains and the mountains to Walla Walla, Washington, where he stayed a short time, then went down the Columbia river to San Francisco and from there to Sacramento City, remaining there two or three years. He came back east across the Isthmus of Panama on muleback and by coasting vessel to New York City, arriving at the latter port on the day on which the battle between the "Monitor" and the "Merrimac" was fought in Chesapeake Bay. Mr. Schroder had brought with him a considerable sum of money in gold and this he exchanged for currency, at the ratio of ninety dollars in paper money for fifty dollars in gold. He returned to Wisconsin by way of Canada and St. Paul and presently bought a farm in the neighborhood of Platteville, Wisconsin, where he spent the rest of his life. He and his wife were members of the Lutheran church and their children were reared in that faith. There were three of these children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the second in order of birth, the others being Anna, who is now living in Minnesota, and James, a farmer in the neighborhood of Platteville, Wisconsin.

George W. Schroder was reared on the home farm and received a high-school education. When twenty-one years of age he assumed the management of the home farm in Wisconsin and two years later, in 1897, came

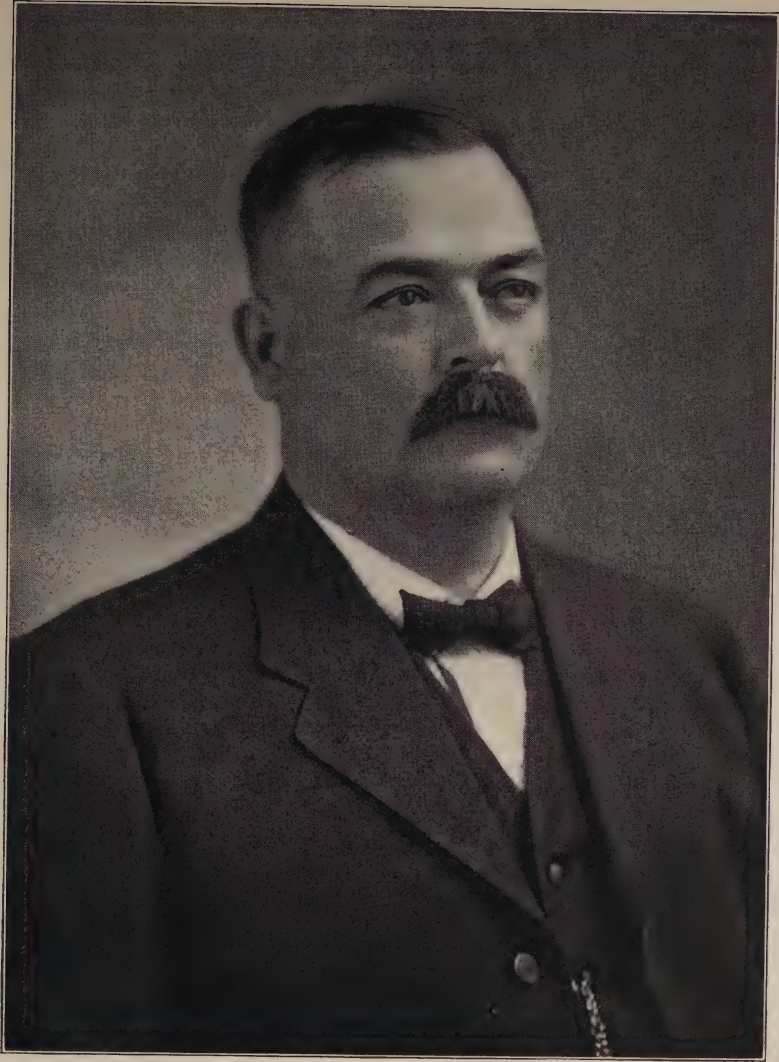
up into this part of Iowa and located in Plymouth county. He bought a half section of land in Henry township and there remained, farming the same, for four years, at the end of which time he returned to Platteville, Wisconsin, where for four years he was engaged in the meat business. He then returned to this county and for six years thereafter was engaged in cultivating his farm in Henry township. He then moved to Remsen and for two years thereafter was engaged there as the manager of the farmers elevator. He then began buying grain on his own account and has ever since been thus engaged, being now one of the best-known grain men in the county. Mr. Schroder is a Democrat and has held various school offices, having given his close personal attention to the development of the schools of his home district.

On December 18, 1895, at Platteville, Wisconsin, George W. Schroder was united in marriage to Anna Scheel, of that place, and to this union four children have been born, daughters all, Mabel, Ethel, Bessie and Lucile, the former of whom is now a student in the Iowa State University. Mr. Schroder is a member of the Masonic lodge at Marcus and of the Modern Woodmen of America and of the Order of the Eastern Star at Remsen and takes a warm interest in lodge affairs.

GEORGE W. HARKER.

When he refers to the late George W. Harker as a good citizen, in all that that term implies, the biographer has no fears of being contradicted, for Mr. Harker's long life in Plymouth county was such as to gain the esteem of all who knew him. He was a man of self-reliance, courage, hospitality and helpfulness, and all who knew him or had dealings with him praised him for his many commendable qualities. His active years were spent as a farmer and stock buyer.

George W. Harker was born in Lafayette county, Wisconsin, October 1, 1863, and he was a son of J. V. and Alice Harker, full mention of whom is made in a biographical sketch of John V. Harker, which will be found on another page of this volume. He spent his early boyhood on the home farm in Wisconsin and received his education in the common schools there and in the schools of Plymouth county, Iowa, whither he removed with his parents when ten years old. Here he grew to manhood and engaged in farming on the homestead, later farming in partnership with his brother, John V. Harker.



GEORGE W. HARKER

They bought two hundred acres in Stanton township, which they operated together until 1905, when they moved to Le Mars where they bought cattle for the market. In 1908 George W. Harker opened a butcher shop, which he operated in connection with his stock-buying business until his death, September 28, 1915. Mr. Harker was energetic and a good business man and was successful in all his undertakings. He always dealt honestly with his fellowmen, and therefore had the confidence and good will of all who knew him. Mr. Harker was an independent voter. He was an active member of the local lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

On December 2, 1890, George W. Harker was married to Alice Stokes, a daughter of Thomas and Margaret (Croft) Stokes, and to this union four children were born, namely: Leslie, Vincent, Lois and Bernice. They are all unmarried and live at home with their mother in Le Mars, the sons now conducting the Harker Brothers meat market. In 1916 Vincent Harker was stationed with his company, the local company of the Iowa National Guard, on border duty in Texas, the command to which his company is attached being quartered at Brownsville.

GEORGE HERBERT WOOTON, D. D. S.

Dr. George Herbert Wooton, former mayor of the city of Akron and the oldest dentist in continuous practice in that city, is a native of Michigan, born at Hastings, that state, April 24, 1872, son of James and Elizabeth (Johnson) Wooton, the former a native of the Dominion of Canada and the latter of the State of Ohio, who are still living at Hastings, both now being around eighty years of age.

James Wooton, as noted above, was born in Canada, son of Herbert Wooton and wife, and was but a lad when his parents moved to Michigan and settled at Hastings, where he grew to manhood and where he married Elizabeth Johnson, who was born in Ohio, daughter of Ralph Johnson and wife, and who was a young woman when her parents moved to Hastings. James Wooton for years was the proprietor of a livery stable at Hastings and until the time of his practical retirement from active business affairs took an interested part in community affairs, for some time serving as marshal of his home town. He also was for some time engaged in farming and is still the owner of a fine farm in Michigan. To him and his wife five children were born, of whom the subject of this sketch was the second in order of birth,

the others being as follow: The Rev. James Ralph Wooton, pastor of the Methodist Episcopal church at Grand Ledge, Michigan; Dr. John A. Wooton, a dentist, practicing at Hastings, Michigan; Morris, a bookkeeper in an automobile factory at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and Mary, who married Roy Andrus, of Hastings, present clerk of Barry county, Michigan.

Reared at Hastings, George H. Wooton received his elementary education in the schools of that city and was graduated from the high school there in 1889, after which he for a time was engaged as a clerk in a general store in that city and then entered the university at Valparaiso, Indiana, from the commercial department of which institution he was graduated in 1891, after which he resumed his place in the store and was thus engaged until the fall of 1893, when he entered the department of dental surgery in the University of Michigan, from which he was graduated with the class of 1896. Thus admirably equipped for the practice of his profession, Doctor Wooton decided to come West and in that same year joined, at Vermillion, South Dakota, Doctor Collins, who had been graduated from the University of Michigan two years before and had settled at Vermillion. This mutually agreeable partnership continued for two years, or until 1898, when Doctor Wooton recognized the possibilities of dental practice at the then rapidly growing little city of Akron and in that same year moved up to Akron, opened an office and has ever since been engaged in practice there, being now the oldest dentist in continuous practice in that city, as well as one of the oldest in Plymouth county.

Doctor Wooton has noted with gratification during the many years of his practice the growing tendency on the part of the people to take better care of their teeth than formerly. In the old days the majority of persons were content to tell the dentist or the family physician simply to pull the offending tooth and have the ordeal over. Now all thoughtful persons preserve their teeth when at all possible to do so and marvels in that direction are being performed by modern dental surgery. Doctor Wooton has ever kept fully abreast of the advances being made in his profession and his office is fully equipped for the most effective application of his important art. Ever since locating at Akron, Doctor Wooton has given his thoughtful attention to local political affairs and for five years served as mayor of the city, being elected on the Republican ticket. He also served for some time as a member of the city council and has also given service as a member of the school board, ever helpful in promoting all movements having to do with the advancement of the common interest of his home town. He is a member of the Iowa State Dental Society and of the Sioux City District Dental Society and takes a warm interest in the affairs of both those organizations. During the time the

Knights of Pythias maintained a local organization at Akron he was a member of that order. Upon locating at Akron, Doctor Wooton established his office across the street from the photograph gallery on Reed street, later moving to the building in which the Hanford Produce Company is now located, thence to the old Metz building and from there to the Clark-Cilley building and had offices there at the time that building was destroyed by fire, whereupon he moved to his present admirable quarters in the First National Bank building, where he has maintained his office since 1910.

In September, 1899, Dr. George H. Wooton was united in marriage to Della Christy, who was born in this county, daughter of Robert and Mary Christy, pioneers of Plymouth county, and who at the time of her marriage was operating a millinery store at Akron, and to this union one child has been born, a daughter, Idelline, born on November 9, 1912. Doctor and Mrs. Wooton are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and take a proper interest in the various beneficences of the same, as well as in the general social activities of their home town, helpful in promoting all local good causes.

JACOB F. BERNER.

Jacob F. Berner, who is now living a retired life in Merrill, this county, was born in Jackson county, Iowa, on October 1, 1860, son of Gottlieb and Catherine (Bubeck) Berner, both of whom were natives of Germany, born and reared in Wittenburg, where they received their education and later came to this country and located in Jackson county, Iowa, where they were married and where Mr. Berner purchased a farm, where he and his wife made their home until in February, 1876, when they came to Plymouth county. Before going to Jackson county, Mr. Berner worked for a time in the state of New York. On coming to Plymouth county he purchased an unimproved farm in Plymouth township, four miles southeast of Merrill. With much hard work the place later become one of the ideal farms of the township. There Mr. Berner engaged in general farming and stock raising and there he and his wife died, he at the age of sixty-seven years and she at the age of sixty-two years. They were active members of the United Evangelical church and were prominent in the social life of the township. They were the parents of seven children, Jacob, Louisa, Christ, Gottlieb, William, Mary and Daniel. Louisa is the wife of George Zimmerman, a successful farmer of Plymouth township; Christ, who married Catherine Hoffman, is

now deceased, his widow living three miles south of Merrill; Gottlieb E. is a prominent farmer and stockman of Stanton township; William F. attended school for four years at Cedar Falls, Iowa, was later graduated from the Northwestern Medical College at Chicago, Illinois, and is now a successful physician of Bellefourche, South Dakota, after having been engaged in the practice of medicine for fourteen years, at Merrill. He married Hannah Burbank. Mary Berner is the wife of H. H. Schneider, a farmer of Plymouth township, and Daniel H. married Matilda Debbert and is now living a retired life at Pomona, California.

Jacob F. Berner received his education in the common schools of Jackson county and grew to manhood on the home farm, where he assisted his father with the farm work. He lived at home until his marriage on March 12, 1885, to Christina Schindel, who was born in Plymouth township, this county, daughter of Peter P. and Mary Schindel, natives of Hesse-Darmstadt, Germany, who were married there and in 1851 came to the United States and for two years were residents of Illinois. They then made the journey to Plymouth county, Iowa, with an ox-team. A cow which was led behind the wagon, died at Sioux City. That now thriving city then contained but fourteen houses. On their arrival in Plymouth township, Mr. Schindel pre-empted land and here he and his wife established their home on the plains. This farm they developed and improved and there Mr. Schindel died in 1894. His widow is still living on the farm, at the age of eighty-three years. They were active members of the United Evangelical church and were the parents of the following children: Jacob J., Christina, Henry, Peter, Charles, Emma, William, Mary and John.

Soon after their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Berner located on a farm three miles southeast of Merrill, where they resided for fifteen years. They then purchased eighty acres of land in Plymouth township, to which they added another eighty acres. After a residence of some years on this farm, Mr. Berner engaged in the hardware and furniture business with J. C. Shindel at Merrill, under the firm name of Shindel & Berner. This partnership continued for seven years, at the end of which time Mr. Berner obtained one hundred and ninety acres of land, a part of which is in the corporation of Merrill. After assuming possession of this farm, he remodeled the house and the barn and made many extensive improvements, and here he has since made his home. He has a beautiful place and takes much interest in the management of his farm and in the care of his Holstein cattle. He has some thirty head of milch cows and ships milk to Sioux City. He also has many fine Duroc-Jersey hogs,

which are among the best in the locality. For a number of years Mr. Berner has been retired from the more active duties of farm life, yet he takes much interest in the operation of the place.

Jacob F. Berner has always taken a keen interest in local affairs and has had much to do with the civic life of the township. For a number of years he has been a member of the city council of Merrill, and has served on the school board, as well as serving several terms as justice of the peace. He was a member of the council at the time of the installation of the waterworks and the electric light plant and at the time of the erection of the new high school building. He has always been progressive and is a strong advocate of the most substantial public improvements. He is thoroughly in accord with the advanced system of public schools, and believes that much of the future success of the state depends on the instruction of the children of today.

Jacob F. Berner and wife are active members of the Methodist Episcopal church at Merrill, and have long been prominent in the social and religious life of the place. They have many friends throughout the county, and are held in the highest regard by all who know them. They have two children, Urban W. and Ruth Marie, both of whom are attending the high school at Merrill, from which school Urban will graduate in 1917.

U. G. RHODES.

U. G. Rhodes, a retired farmer of Plymouth county and former merchant of Akron, who is now making his home in that city, where he is engaged as a contractor in carpentering, painting and paper-hanging, was born in this state on May 14, 1869, son of Gilbert Pendleton and Sarah B. (St. John) Rhodes, the former a native of Pennsylvania and the latter of the state of New York.

It was in New York state that Gilbert P. Rhodes and Sarah B. St. John were married. Not long afterward, in the early sixties, they determined to try their fortunes in the West and with that end in view came out to this part of the country. After a sometime residence in South Dakota, which at that time, in its territorial stage, was just beginning to attract settlers, they moved on down into Nebraska and after remaining there awhile came over into Iowa and settled in Buena Vista county, where they made their home for ten years, at the end of which time they moved to Kansas and thence, after some little time, to Colorado, whence they returned

to Iowa and again settled in Buena Vista county, where Gilbert P. Rhodes spent the rest of his life, his death occurring in 1899. His widow still survives and is now making her home with one of her daughters, Mrs. Reed, at Pierre, South Dakota. She is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, as was her husband, and their children were reared in that faith. There were seven of these children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the fourth in order of birth, the others being as follow: J. Chester, a salesman, living at Red Oak, this state; Abbie, who married J. O. Douglas and lives at Emerson, Nebraska; Irvin, who lives at Denver, where he is connected with one of the express companies; Belle, who married H. M. Reed, Jr., and lives at Pierre, South Dakota; Clara, who married C. F. Secrest and lives at Arvada, Colorado, and Estalene, who married L. S. Shedd and lives in this county.

U. G. Rhodes was reared on a farm and the larger part of his schooling was received in the schools of Buena Vista county, this state. As a young man he learned the trade of carpenter and also became a painter and paper-hanger, which vocations he followed there for a couple of years, at the end of which time he went to Kansas and remained in that state for eight years, or until the year 1900, when he came back to Iowa and located at Akron, this county, arriving there on February 14 of that year. At Akron he formed a partnership with his brother-in-law, J. O. Douglas, under the firm name of Douglas & Rhodes, and was thus engaged, operating a "racket" store at Akron, for seven years, at the end of which time he bought a farm of one hundred and sixty acres, two miles south of Akron and moved onto the same, making his home there for nine years, or until the spring of 1916, when he turned the management of the farm over to his eldest son and returned to Akron, where he since has made his home and where he is engaged in a general jobbing business connected with the trades he followed years before, painting, paper-hanging and carpentering. Mr. Rhodes is a Republican and, fraternally, is a member of the Brotherhood of American Yeomen.

On December 25, 1892, U. G. Rhodes was united in marriage to Vella Irons, who was born at Abingdon, Knox county, Illinois, June 22, 1873, daughter of J. D. and Nancy (Babbitt) Irons, both natives of that same county, the latter of whom died there in 1909 and the former of whom, a carpenter, is still living there. J. D. Irons is an honored veteran of the Civil War, having served for four years as a member of the Fourth Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry, participating in all the arduous service of that

command. To Mr. and Mrs. Rhodes four children have been born, namely: Ralph, born on April 22, 1894, who, December 25, 1915, was united in marriage to Irene Dickerson, of Hawarden, this state, and is now managing his father's farm south of Akron; Florence, October 25, 1896; Marion, October 2, 1900, and Lila, April 21, 1903. Florence Rhodes and Eugene Lias were united in marriage on October 4, 1916, at Le Mars, Iowa. They are living on their farm about two miles south of Akron. The Rhodeses have a pleasant home at Akron and take a proper part in the general social activities of the town.

JOHN V. HARKER.

John V. Harker, a well-known stock buyer at Le Mars, councilman-at-large for that city and a substantial landowner of Plymouth county, is a native of the state of Wisconsin, but has been a resident of this county since he was about twelve years of age. He was born on a farm in Lafayette county, Wisconsin, June 19, 1861, son of John V. and Alice (Liddell) Harker, natives of England, whose last days were spent at Le Mars.

John V. Harker, Sr., was a coal miner in his native Yorkshire. Not long after his marriage there he left England with his wife and came to this country, locating at Council Hill, Illinois, where he worked in a general store for about four years, at the end of which time he bought a farm of forty acres in Seymour township, Lafayette county, Wisconsin, and there established his home, remaining there until 1873, when he came to Iowa and bought a farm of a quarter of a section in Stanton township, this county, paying for the same seven dollars and fifty cents an acre. He prospered in his farming operations and later added to his holdings until he became the owner of two hundred and forty acres of excellent land, which he farmed until 1888, in which year he retired from the active labors of the farm and moved to Le Mars, where he spent his last days, his death occurring in February, 1893. His widow survived him for seventeen years, her death occurring in 1910. The senior John V. Harker was an active and influential citizen of Plymouth county and during his residence in Stanton township held numerous local public offices. He also was a licensed preacher of the Methodist Episcopal church and was widely known as a minister of the gospel throughout this part of the country, his ministerial services always being rendered without charge. To him and his wife seven children were born, of whom but three are now living, those besides the subject of this sketch being James T. Harker and Mrs. Mary Alfred.

The junior John V. Harker was about twelve years of age when his parents moved from Wisconsin to Plymouth county and his schooling was therefore received in the schools of the former state and of this county. He remained with his father after completing his schooling, a valued assistant in the labors of the home farm, until his marriage in 1889, when he and his brother, George, rented the home place for a short time, presently buying a farm of three hundred and twenty acres in that same neighborhood, which they farmed together until the marriage of George Harker, when a division of their interests was made and John V. Harker continued as a general farmer and stock raiser until 1905, when he moved to Le Mars and engaged in his present successful business of buying live stock, in which he has ever since been engaged. Mr. Harker is a Republican and has ever given close attention to local civic affairs. At present he is serving as alderman-at-large for the city of Le Mars.

It was in 1889 that John V. Harker was united in marriage to Mary E. Stokes, a daughter of Thomas and Margaret Stokes, and to this union five children have been born, namely: Lee, who is now a dentist, practicing at Minneapolis, Minnesota; Blanche, a teacher of mathematics in the public schools of Le Mars; Alice, who is attending the University of Minnesota; Wesley, a student of the Le Mars high school, and Margaret, also in high school. Mr. Harker is an active member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and is past noble grand of the local lodge of that order.

HON. EDWARD D. CHASELL.

In the settlement of every new country, as well as in the development of every thriving city, there are always men of ambition, good judgment and unquestioned integrity, who make for the good of their adopted home and at the same time mould for themselves a place in the hearts of their countrymen. Such a man has been Edward D. Chassell, who was intimately associated with the growth of Le Mars for a period covering more than twenty years. To acquaint the reader with the general line of his operations from the days of his youth, it may be said that he was born in Holland Patent, Oneida county, New York, May 25, 1858, the son of William and Frances A. (Jones) Chassell. In early life he lived on a farm near Iowa Falls, in Hardin county, Iowa. He began teaching country school in his teens and in 1882 graduated from the Iowa State Normal School (now the State



E. A. Hassell

Teachers College). He was granted an honorary degree by his alma mater in 1888. After serving as principal of the schools at Stacyville and St. Ansgar, Mitchell county, Iowa, he purchased an interest in the *Osage News* in 1884 and was its editor for five years prior to going to Le Mars in 1889, when he purchased a controlling interest in the *Le Mars Semi-Weekly Sentinel*. For many years Mr. Chassell was one of the forceful men of the community. As editor of the *Sentinel*, he was in a position to work to advantage to promote the best interests of Le Mars and Plymouth county. Then, as now, the *Sentinel* was on the side of public improvement and true advancement. One of the early improvements for which the *Sentinel* worked as an active promoter was the sanitary sewer system.

Mr. Chassell was one of the organizers of the Le Mars Normal School Association, which raised money and erected the building that was afterwards donated to Western Union College. For about ten years he was secretary of the Le Mars Normal School Association and also of the Le Mars Improvement Company, both of which organizations did much in the early nineties to develop the growth of Le Mars.

Contrary to the general opinion that an aggressive editor usually makes too many enemies to be successful in politics, Mr. Chassell served three terms in the Iowa House of Representatives as the member from Plymouth county. In 1894 he served his first term, being elected as a Republican, following ten years of Democratic representation of Plymouth county at the state capitol. Ten years later, in 1904, he served the second term and the third in 1906. In 1904 he introduced a bill providing for a two-cent family mileage book for railway passenger transportation. The bill passed the House, but was killed by the committee in the Senate, near the close of the session. The discussion aided materially in creating public sentiment which resulted in the enactment of the law at the next session of the Legislature, fixing the rate for Iowa railway passenger transportation at two cents per mile.

As secretary of the Iowa Republican state central committee in 1890 and 1891, Mr. Chassell had an opportunity to study the management of campaigns and he rendered valuable service to the party, which was recognized in 1892, when he was elected as one of the presidential electors and thus was given the privilege of casting a ballot for the election of President of the United States.

Service as assistant secretary of the Iowa Senate in the twenty-second General Assembly gave him a knowledge of legislative practice and of the ins and outs of law-making that was invaluable as a preparation for legis-

lative duties. On account of his previous training, he was not obliged to serve the usual apprenticeship of a new member, but soon took an active part in the work of law-making.

In 1906 Mr. Chassell was elected state binder, which office he held for six years, conducting it in a business-like and satisfactory manner. In the memorable political contest of 1906, when Governor A. B. Cummins was nominated and elected for the third term, Mr. Chassell was associated with the campaign as one of its active managers, and he was also similarly associated at a later time when Governor Cummins was elected to the United States Senate.

In 1914 Governor George W. Clarke tendered to Mr. Chassell an appointment as a member of the Iowa railway commission, but affairs of a personal business nature made it impossible for him to give his time to the work of the office and he declined the appointment, but only recently (December, 1916) the same governor has appointed him to fill out the unexpired term of the late J. H. Wilson, Iowa railroad commissioner, and he has accepted the appointment, which holds for two years.

For several years Mr. Chassell has been devoting most of his time to real estate interests, having holdings in Iowa and other states and in western Canada. He has been managing a line of farms in Saskatchewan in the summer season. Coupling business with pleasure, Mr. Chassell has, at various times, been quite an extensive American traveler. In 1893 he was associated with a company engaged in gold and silver mining in southwestern Chihuahua and in operating a stamp-mill in the Sierra Madre mountains, in Mexico. No wagon roads approached the mines and for over two hundred miles the machinery was transported on the backs of mules, the larger parts being cut up into sections of three hundred pounds each so as to be suitable for this primitive method of transportation. The fly-wheel of the engine was cut into several pieces, which were riveted together after reaching the mine. Machinery was sometimes broken when the mules fell over precipices with their cargoes. Mr. Chassell has many interesting souvenirs of this wild locality, which has since become one of the strongholds of the Mexican revolutionists. Part of a winter enjoyed by Mr. and Mrs. Chassell in Havana gave further opportunity for the study of Spanish character at close range and to visit the scenes of historic incidents of the contest of a hundred years between Cuba and Spain.

On one of his northern trips, Mr. Chassell visited Norway House, the Hudson Bay Company post at the extreme north end of Lake Winnipeg,

where the Nelson river forms the outlet for the lake waters that flow into Hudson bay. This is located about four hundred miles north of Winnipeg and was an important point for trading with the Indians more than a hundred years before the white settlers located in Iowa. It was owned and operated then, as now, by "The Company of Gentlemen Adventurers Trading into Hudson Bay." While great cities have sprung up to the south in the United States and Canada, Norway House and its surroundings show little change since the day when the "great company" was organized in 1670.

Like many other progressive Americans, Mr. Chassell is affiliated with the Masonic fraternity, having joined that society in 1884. He became a Knight Templar before leaving Osage, and now is affiliated with blue lodge, chapter, commandery and Eastern Star in Le Mars and is a member of Elkahir Temple of the Mystic Shrine at Cedar Rapids and of the Scottish Rite bodies in Des Moines. He is a member of the order of Sons of the American Revolution and at present is vice-president of the Iowa Association of that fraternity. Mrs. Chassell is a member of the Daughters of the Revolution and also of the Colonial Dames.

In 1906 Mr. Chassell married Mary A. Calkins, daughter of Doctor and Mrs. M. H. Calkins, of Wyoming, Jones county, Iowa.

It will be observed by the above biography that Mr. Chassell has always been an untiring worker in whatever he has attempted, and usually with much success for his reward. It may be added that there are but few men of his years in all Iowa's broad domain who bear the respect of all good citizens to a greater extent than he does.

JOHN H. MEHLHOP.

John Mehlhop, a well-known and substantial retired farmer, Henry township, now living at Remsen, where he and his family are very comfortably situated, is a native of Germany, but has been a resident of this country since he was eighteen years of age. He was born in the Prussian province of Hanover on February 19, 1847, son of Johann Albert and Margaret (Sander) Mehlhop, also Hanoverians, the former of whom was a carpenter and both of whom spent all their lives in their native country. They were the parents of three children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the eldest, the others being Mary, who is still living in Hanover, and Beta, who is married and lives in Grant county, Wisconsin.

Upon completing his schooling in his native land, John H. Mehlhop decided to come to the United States and seek his fortune in the Northwest. He came over here in 1865, he then being eighteen years of age, and located at La Crosse, Wisconsin, in the neighborhood of which he was for five years engaged in farming. He then went to Grant county, that same state, was married there in 1878 and worked at general labor there until he came to this county, where he ever since has made his home. In 1882 Mr. Mehlhop came over to this part of Iowa and after prospecting a bit bought a quarter of a section of land in Henry township, this county. The next year he moved with his family on to that farm and began to develop and improve the same. From the very beginning he prospered in his farming operations and presently added to his holdings by the purchase of an additional quarter section and on this farm he remained engaged in general farming and stock raising until 1907, when he retired from the active labors of the farm, bought his present handsome home at Remsen and has lived there ever since. Mr. Mehlhop is a Democrat and has served the public in the capacity of school director and as treasurer of the school district in which he lived for years. Though he and his wife started in a small way when they began life's journey together, their united efforts have been successful and they are now enjoying the ample rewards of their industry and prudent management.

It was in the fall of 1878, in Grant county, Wisconsin, that John H. Mehlhop was united in marriage to Anna Meyer, who also was born in the province of Hanover, a daughter of Frederick and Mary (Seamers) Meyer, natives of that same province, the former of whom was a brick-mason and who spent all their lives in their native land. Frederick Meyer and wife were the parents of five children, two of whom died in Hanover and three of whom came to this country, those besides Mrs. Mehlhop being Dietrich, a brickmason, who died at Plattville, Wisconsin, and Fred, a tailor, who died in Chicago. To Mr. and Mrs. Mehlhop six children have been born, namely: John, who died at the age of eight years; Henry, a well-known farmer of Henry township, this county, who married Emma Erickson and has three children, George, Alma and Marie; Louise, who died at the age of two years and six months; Anna, who married John Hollen, a farmer, of Henry township, and has four children, Mary, Henry, Emma and Viola; Carl, a farmer of Henry township, and Bertha, who died at the age of six months. The Mehlhops established a very substantial home in Henry township and ever took an earnest part in the various social activities of that neighborhood.

ERNEST OSTROM.

Ernest Ostrom, proprietor of the Ostrom garage at Akron, a member of the city council of that city and a well-to-do landowner, is a native of the kingdom of Sweden, but has been a resident of this county since he was seven years old. He was born on January 28, 1872, son and only child of John and Mary (Johnson) Ostrom, also natives of Sweden, who came to the United States in 1879 and proceeded directly to Iowa, settling in Grant township, this county, where they established their home among the pioneer settlers of that part of the county. Upon coming here John Ostrom bought a tract of two hundred acres of wild prairie land in section 31 of Grant township, built a small frame house, sixteen by twenty-four, planted a fine grove and started in to develop his place, becoming one of the substantial pioneer farmers of that part of the county. There he and his wife made their home until 1900, when they retired from the farm and moved to Le Mars, where Mrs. Ostrom died two years later, in 1902, after which Mr. Ostrom made his home with his son at Akron, until his death in 1910. Some time after his retirement he sold one hundred and twenty acres of his home farm and his son now owns the remaining eighty.

Ernest Ostrom was about seven years old when his parents came to Plymouth county and he was reared on the home farm in Grant township, receiving his elementary schooling in the neighboring district school and supplementing the same by a short course in the normal school at Le Mars, meanwhile continuing to make his home on his father's place, a valuable assistant in the work of developing the same. After his marriage in 1898 he rented his father's farm and managed the same until 1901, in which year he bought a place of one hundred and twenty acres in section 36 of Westfield township, this county, a well-improved place, and there he made his home for six years, adding considerably to the improvements of the place, at the end of which time he retired from the farm and moved to Akron, where he ever since has made his home. The years following his removal to Akron Mr. Ostrom bought a livery barn which stood on the present site of his modern garage and operated the same for about eighteen months, at the end of which time he sold his horses and rented the building. Six months later the building was destroyed by fire and in the spring of 1914 Mr. Ostrom erected on the site a substantial brick building, forty-four by eighty, and opened a garage, at the same time taking the local agency for the sale of the Ford and the Overland cars, and has ever since been engaged

in the automobile business and has done very well. He carries a fine line of tires and accessories and has a well-equipped service station, his garage being fitted with a turn-table, which greatly facilitates the handling of cars. Mr. Ostrom rents his two farms. In addition to his business and agricultural interests he gives his thoughtful attention to local civic affairs and is now a member of the Akron city council.

In 1898 Ernest Ostrom was united in marriage to Robena McGinnis, of Johnson township, this county, and to this union four children have been born, Ida, Fern, Dwight and Joy. The Ostroms have a pleasant home at Akron and give proper attention to the general social activities of the community. Mr. Ostrom is past noble grand of the local lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and is also a member of the Woodmen of the World and of the Modern Woodmen of America.

MARTIN HATZ.

Luxemburg has given to the United States many of her citizens, who have become prominent and successful in the business and professional life of this country. Among the number who are now identified with the business interests of Remsen, Plymouth county, is Martin Hatz, who was born on September 17, 1871, and is the son of Peter and Margaret Hatz.

Peter and Margaret Hatz were born in Luxemburg and there received their education in the public schools, grew up and were later married. Peter Hatz was a small landowner and, in connection with his agricultural work, conducted a grocery store. He and his wife were active members of the Catholic church, and took much interest in all church work and were prominent in the social life of the community, where they were held in the highest regard and esteem. They spent their lives in the land of their birth, where they died some years ago. They were the parents of eight children, four of whom are now living: Frank and Mary in Luxemburg and Martin and Nick in Plymouth county. Nick came to this country, a young man and later engaged in general farming and stock raising in the county, where he met with much success, and is now living a retired life at Remsen.

Martin Hatz received his education in the public schools of Luxemburg and there grew to manhood. He worked as a laborer in his native land until the time he decided to come to America. In 1891 he sailed for America. On his arrival in the United States, he at once came to Iowa and located at

Sioux City, where he worked in a butcher shop for four years. At the end of that time, he and his brother, Nick, started a saloon and hotel in Sioux City, which they conducted for three years. They then sold the business and came to Remsen, where they purchased the Hoffman Hotel, which they operated for two years, when they sold the place, and Martin Hatz then engaged in the butcher business, in which he has since remained, with success. He started in the business in a small way, and today has a well-established trade, and by his business-like methods and courteous treatment of the public, he has won the confidence and esteem of the residents of his home community.

In 1895 Martin Hatz was united in marriage to Mary Anton, who died on September 1, 1905. To this union were born six children as follow: Nick, Christena, Mathew, Elizabeth, Frank and Mary. The family are devout members of the Catholic church and are held in the highest regard in the district in which they live. Mr. Hatz is a member of the Catholic Mutual Protective Association. He is identified with the Democratic party, and while he takes much interest in local affairs he is not an office seeker.

R. J. M. LONG.

R. J. M. Long, one of the best-known and most progressive young merchants of Le Mars and the proprietor of an up-to-date grocery store in that city, was born at Le Mars and has lived there all his life. He was born on September 12, 1886, son of Robert and Emily (Marshall) Long, the former of whom is a native of Ireland and is now making his home at Tacoma, Washington.

Robert Long was born in Comber, County Down, Ireland, April 22, 1860, the son of James and Prudence (Kennedy) Long, also natives of the North of Ireland, the former born in 1820 and died in 1906, and the latter born in 1822 and died in 1898.

Robert Long, on May 1, 1880, came to the United States, settling at Chicago. Two years later he came to Iowa and engaged in gardening on what is now known as the G. A. C. Clarke place, near Le Mars, but presently abandoned that form of endeavor and opened a cigar store at the corner of Main and Sixth streets, in Le Mars, later disposing of that business and engaging in the grocery business in that city, continuing thus engaged from 1893 until 1908, in which latter year he sold to the J. R. Street Grocery

Company and went to Tacoma, Washington, where he is now engaged in the responsible position of buyer for the grocery department of a large department store.

Robert Long has been twice married. By his marriage to Emily Marshall, who was born in London, England, 1861, he had two sons, the subject of this sketch having a younger brother, E. R. Long. Some time after the death of the mother of these sons, Mr. Long married Susan Swanzey, which second union has been without issue.

R. J. M. Long was reared at Le Mars and received his schooling in the schools of that city. He traveled for a grocery house from 1907 to 1908 and in 1910 bought out the Otto Grottle grocery, which he has been conducting very successfully. Mr. Long has one of the leading stores of its kind in Le Mars. He carries a stock valued at about five thousand dollars and conducts his business along strictly modern and up-to-date lines. He is a member of the Le Mars Commercial Club and one of the city's most active "boosters."

On December 30, 1908, R. J. M. Long was united in marriage to Ethel Gracey, daughter of Robert Gracey and wife, of Cherokee, this state, and to this union one child has been born, a son, Marshall, born on October 24, 1909. Mr. and Mrs. Long have a very pleasant home at Le Mars and take a proper part in the general social activities of the city.

PHILIP E. HELD.

In another place in this volume there is set out in some detail the history of the well-known Held family and the services rendered in behalf of the live-stock interests of this region by the late Philip Held, one of Plymouth county's most influential pioneers, who established the "Mondamin Stock Farm," which is still being operated by his widow and his sons in Hungerford township. By reference to that biographical sketch it will be noted that Philip E. Held is the second in order of birth of the ten children born to his parents, Philip and Caroline (Koehler) Held, pioneers of this county. He was born on the pioneer farm that had been homesteaded by his father in section 9 of Hungerford township, October 14, 1872, and has lived in that township all his life. In 1879 the Held home was established at its present site in section 8 of that same township and there Philip Held grew to manhood, a valued assistant to his father in the labors of developing the great



PHILIP HELD



MRS. CAROLINE HELD

"Mondamin Stock Farm," with the extensive interests of which he is still connected, the place being operated as an undivided estate, the widowed mother and her sons carrying on the business so successfully established by the late Philip Held, whose death occurred in January, 1899.

Philip E. Held received his elementary schooling in the schools of Hungerford township and supplemented the same by a course in the normal school at Le Mars. On October 16, 1901, he was united in marriage to Johanna Jensen and to this union seven children have been born, Marguerite L., Howard R., Ralph W., Edith L., Dorothy M., Phillip E., deceased, and Harold E. Mr. and Mrs. Held are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and take a proper interest in the various beneficences of the same, as well as in the general social activities of the community in which they live, helpful in promoting all movements having to do with the advancement of the common welfare thereabout. Mr. Held is a member of the Masonic order at Sioux City and takes a warm interest in Masonic affairs.

J. B. CUNNINGHAM.

J. B. Cunningham, former clerk of court of Plymouth county and at present engaged in business at Akron, proprietor of a well-stocked hardware and furniture store in that thriving little city, is a native of Iowa and has lived in this state all his life, with the exception of a few years spent in the mercantile business in the state of South Dakota. He was born on a pioneer farm in Dubuque county on November 10, 1862, son of James and Isabel (Rogers) Cunningham, the former a native of Ireland and the latter of Scotland, who came to this country with their respective parents in the days of their youth and both of whom spent their last days in Iowa.

James Cunningham was born in Londonderry, in the north of Ireland, and when a lad came to the United States with his parents, the family settling in Philadelphia. When a young man he came West and located at Galena, Illinois, where he began working in the lead mines and where he met and married Isabel Rogers, who was born in the city of Edinburgh and who was about sixteen years of age when she came to the United States with her parents, the family settling at Galena. Some years after his marriage James Cunningham came to Iowa and homesteaded an eighty-acre tract in Dubuque county, building there a log cabin and beginning farming operations with an ox-team. He presently brought his place to an excellent state of cultivation

and became widely known as a breeder of fine horses, it having been he who brought from Illinois to Iowa the celebrated Black Hawk breed of horses. On that homestead farm in Dubuque county James Cunningham died in 1865, he then being about fifty-four years of age. His widow continued to make her home on the old home place until 1887, when she came to this county and her last days were spent in the home of her youngest son, the subject of this sketch, in Henry township. To James Cunningham and wife six children were born, those besides the subject of this sketch being as follows: Margaret, who keeps house for her brother, David, on a farm near Dallas, South Dakota; Isabel, who married Mathias Claus, of Ida Grove, this state, and died recently; Hannah, who married J. M. Rees, of Ida Grove; David, who is farming in the vicinity of Dallas, South Dakota, and Robert, a rancher in the vicinity of Page, Nebraska.

Reared on the home farm in Dubuque county, J. B. Cunningham received his elementary schooling in the rural schools of that community, supplementing the same by attendance for four years at Epworth Seminary, in his home county, and two years at the State Agricultural College at Ames. For some time thereafter he taught school in Ida county and in 1885 came to Plymouth county and in partnership with his brother, Robert, bought a tract of two hundred and forty acres of wild prairie land in Henry township. The brothers built a good frame house on their place, planted a fine grove and began to develop the place, continuing thus engaged together until J. B. Cunningham's marriage in 1890, when a division of the place was made, each taking one hundred and twenty acres. There J. B. Cunningham continued farming until his election in 1898 to the office of clerk of court for Plymouth county, at which time he moved to Le Mars, the county seat. He was re-elected to office and continued serving in that capacity until 1909, in which year he moved to South Dakota and located at Dallas, a new town that was founded about that time and there he opened the first hardware store established in the town, gradually enlarging his stock as the demands of the trade grew, until he had a stock valued at about eight thousand dollars. He owned the building in which his store was located and also owned a residence property there. In the spring of 1916 Mr. Cunningham sold his interests at Dallas and on April 1 of that year returned to Plymouth county, locating at Akron, where he bought the E. J. Hammer hardware store and has since then been conducting the same, one of the most energetic and enterprising merchants in Akron. Since taking over that business Mr. Cunningham has added a complete stock of furniture to his hardware line and now has a well-equipped store and well-selected stock in both lines.

In 1890 J. B. Cunningham was united in marriage to Grace M. Pierce, who was born in Kane county, Illinois, and to this union five children have been born, Kenneth, Miles, Florence (deceased), Margaret and James Herbert, the first-named of whom is now assistant cashier of the Bank of Wimmer, South Dakota. Mr. and Mrs. Cunningham are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and take proper interest in the various beneficences of the same, as well as in the general social activities of the community. Mr. Cunningham is a Republican, and as previously noted, served for ten years as clerk of court of Plymouth county. He is a Royal Arch Mason, a member of the Knights of Pythias and of the Modern Woodmen of the World and takes a warm interest in the affairs of these several organizations.

JERGEN JOHNSON.

Jergen Johnson, one of the well-known men and one who has met with success in life, was born in Iroquois county, Illinois, and is now the successful manager of the Remsen Telephone Company, Plymouth county. His birth occurred on September 14, 1879, and he is the son of Jergen and Kate Johnson.

Jergen and Kate Johnson were born in Germany and there received the greater part of their education in the public schools. The father came to the United States when he was but fifteen years of age. He first located in Illinois, where he worked as teamster for some years. On his arrival in this country he had but little money and was required to work at the first proposition that presented itself to him. After a few years of life as a teamster, he married, after which he rented land and devoted the next few years of his life to farm work. He later purchased a farm in Illinois, where he remained until 1888. He then came to Iowa and established his home on a farm that he purchased, consisting of one hundred and sixty acres, three miles east of Remsen. This farm he developed and improved and in time increased his holdings, until he became the owner of three hundred and twenty acres of excellent land. It was on this farm that he made his home, and engaged in general farming and stock raising, until 1904, when he retired from the more active duties of life and moved to Le Mars, where he now lives. He and his wife are the parents of ten children, nine of whom are now living, as follow: Harm, Jergen, Anna, George, Henry, John, Etta, Alta and Enoch.

Jergen Johnson, the subject of this sketch, received his education in the schools of Remsen, completing his education in the high school of that place. He then engaged in farming with his father for one year, when he rented a farm and engaged in farm work for himself for a few years. He and his brother then purchased a farm, which Jergen Johnson farmed for two years. He then sold his interests and moved to Remsen, where he bought the Remsen telephone, which he still owns. Since purchasing the lines he has made many improvements and has added many subscribers to the list, and today he has the largest exchange in the county, outside of Le Mars. He is now the president of the Remsen Telephone Company and the Remsen Tank Line Company, he being one of the organizers of the latter company. In addition to his other interests, he is a large landowner and is at present the owner of over eleven hundred head of sheep, as well as cattle and hogs.

In 1908 Jergen Johnson was united in marriage to Gertrude Strub, the daughter of Charles Strub and wife, and to this union two children have been born, Myrtle and Carl. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson are held in high regard in the community, and where they have taken so much interest in the social and religious life.

AUGUST KOCH.

August Koch, retired farmer and large landowner of Plymouth county, now living at Akron, is a native of Germany, but has been a resident of this country since he was twenty-one years of age. He was born in the kingdom of Prussia on December 7, 1852, son of Christian and Dorothea (Zacher) Koch, also native Prussians, the former a farmer and fisherman, who owned a small farm, and both of whom spent all their lives in their native country. They were members of the Lutheran church and their children were reared in that faith. There were eight of these children, one of whom died in infancy and the others, besides the subject of this sketch, the last-born, are as follow: Minnie, who married John Klautzmann and lives in Germany; Dorothea, who died unmarried, at the age of thirty-five years; Marie, who married William Custer and lives in Germany; Frederick, a farmer, who also lives in his native land, and Sophia and Johanna, twins, the former of whom married William Huebner and the latter, John Kaelke, and both of whom live at Le Mars, this county.

Reared to the life of a farmer and fisherman in his native country,

August Koch received his schooling in his native land and remained at home until he was twenty-one years of age, when, in 1873, he came to the United States and proceeded on out to Iowa, settling in Clayton county, where he was engaged working as a farm hand until his marriage in 1878, when he bought a farm there and resided on the same for about three years, at the end of which time he became so disgusted with conditions there on account of a disastrous visitation of chintz bugs that he sold out and in the spring of 1881 came to Plymouth county and rented a farm in the neighborhood of Remsen. A year later he bought a quarter section of land in section 31 of Preston township and there made his home until 1895, meantime buying an adjoining quarter section, besides land in Portland township and another quarter section in the latter township, and in the year above mentioned moved onto the latter farm and there made his home until 1906, in which year he retired from the active labors of the farm and moved to Akron, where he bought an old house on the hill, remodeled and improved the same along modern lines, and there has since made his home. Since his retirement Mr. Koch has continued his land investments and is now the owner of eight hundred acres of land in Plymouth county, the greater part of which he has under a high state of cultivation and all of which is being profitably farmed. In addition to his general farming Mr. Koch has long given considerable attention to the raising of high-grade live stock and has done very well. He is a Republican and during his residence on the farm served for some time as school director.

August Koch has been twice married. In March, 1878, in Clayton county, this state, he was united in marriage to Elise Krass, who was born in this state, daughter of Henry Krass and wife, pioneers of Clayton county, and to that union eight children were born, namely: Fred, who died in infancy; Henry, who died in infancy; Willie, who died at the age of twenty-six years; John, who lives on one of his father's farms in this county; Emil, who is at home; August, who died in infancy; Louis, who is farming one of his father's farms, and Herman, at home, who was graduated from the agricultural department of the Iowa State University in 1916. The mother of these children died in 1892 and in 1897 Mr. Koch married Mrs. Louisa (Peters) Koch, who was born in Baden, Germany, May 8, 1855, daughter of Nicholas and Anna Marie (Leonard) Peters, who came to the United States in 1870 and settled in Grant county, Wisconsin, where they spent the remainder of their lives, residents of Cassville. Louisa Peters was fifteen years of age when she came to this country with her parents and she grew

to womanhood in Wisconsin. In 1878, at Dubuque, this state, she was united in marriage to George Koch and in 1882 moved to Akron, this county, where George Koch was engaged in the hotel business until his death in 1896. By Mrs. Koch's first marriage she is the mother of three children, namely: Dr. George W. Koch, of Sioux City, this state; May Louisa, who married Robert Ross and lives at Akron, and Fred, who lives at home and who is an embalmer and undertaker. The Kochs are members of the Lutheran church and take a proper interest in church affairs and in the general social activities of their home town and of the community at large.

CHARLES B. WAGNER.

Charles B. Wagner, a well-known and successful contractor of Remsen, Plymouth county, was born in Luxemburg on February 21, 1854, and is the son of Mike and Annie Marie (Gobert) Wagner.

Mike and Annie Marie Wagner were also natives of Luxemburg and there received their education in the public schools and were later married. Mr. Wagner was a laborer in his native land, where he and his family continued to live until 1857, when he and his wife decided to come to America. On their arrival in this country they located in Jackson county, Iowa, where they established their home on a rented farm and where they remained for a number of years. He later purchased a farm and continued to engage in general farming in that county until 1877, when he came to Plymouth county, where he rented land until 1879, at which time he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land, where he continued to live until his retirement from the active duties of farm life and moved to Remsen, where he died in 1900. His wife is also dead. They were the parents of ten children, five of whom are now living as follow: Mrs. Nic Zeig, Mrs. Emma Beitcher, Mrs. Anna Hentges, Mrs. John Gallis and Mrs. Herman Anthé. Mr. and Mrs. Wagner were members of the Catholic church and reared their children in that faith.

Charles B. Wagner received his education in the schools of Jackson county, Iowa, and there engaged in farm work until he was twenty, when on July 21, 1874, he came to Le Mars. For some years he worked as a farm hand and later took up carpenter work, at which he was engaged in Le Mars until 1886, when he moved to Remsen, where he established himself in the contracting business, in which he has been most successful. He makes a

specialty of erecting dwelling houses, and many of the finer homes in the district are the result of his workmanship.

In 1883 Charles B. Wagner was united in marriage at Le Mars to Mary Beck, the daughter of Mike Beck and wife, highly respected people of that city. To this union four children have been born as follow: Clarinda, Mary, Lenore and Leo. Clarinda is the wife of Theo Gangler and they are the parents of four children, Lena, Mildred, Marie and Alford; the other children of the Wagner family are at home. Mr. and Mrs. Wagner are active members of the Catholic church at Remsen and are prominent in the social life of the community, where they are held in the highest regard and esteem by all. Politically, Mr. Wagner is identified with the Democratic party, and while he takes much interest in local affairs, he does not aspire to office. He is a man in whom the entire county has the utmost confidence and his life has been one of honor and respect. As a workman and builder he is recognized as one of the best in the district.

T. S. LIST, D. V. M.

T. S. List, a well-known and successful practitioner of veterinary medicine at Remsen, Plymouth county, was born in Granville, Iowa, on March 1, 1885, and is the son of John and Walburga List, both of whom were natives of France.

John and Walburga List were born in Alsace-Lorraine, which is now a part of the German empire. The parents of Doctor List received a part of their education in the schools of their native land, and came to the United States when they were small children. The parents of John List came to this country when the son was but a small boy and located in Illinois. It was in that state that John List received his education and there grew to manhood, was there married, and engaged in general farming. He and his wife later came to Iowa, and located near Granville, in 1883. Here the family established their home on a farm which the father purchased, and on which he farmed and engaged in stock raising until he retired from the active duties of farm life and moved to Granville, where he now resides. As a farmer and stockman, he met with much success and is now the owner of three hundred and sixty acres of excellent land, all of which is under high cultivation and well improved.

John and Walburga List were the parents of nine children, seven of

whom are living, T. S. being the only one in Plymouth county. Mr. and Mrs. List are prominent members of the Catholic church and have long been active in the social life of the community, in the development of which they have taken an active part. Mr. List has always been active in the civic life of the district, and while he has not in any sense, been an office seeker, he has had much to do with the excellent condition of the governmental affairs as they exist today.

T. S. List received his primary education in the common schools of Sioux county, Iowa, and grew to manhood on the home farm, where as a lad he assisted his father in the farm work. He later engaged in general farming with his father. He then rented the home place with his brothers until 1909, when he entered Iowa State College for three years. He then entered the Chicago College of Veterinary Medicine, where in 1913 he received his degree of Doctor of Veterinary Science. Since locating in Remsen he has built up an extensive business and today he practices in Sioux, Cherokee and Plymouth counties.

On June 24, 1913, T. S. List was united in marriage to Matilda Lechtenburg, the daughter of Fred Lechtenburg and wife, prominent people of the community, and to this union one child has been born, Charles. Mr. and Mrs. List are prominent members of the Catholic church, and Mr. List is identified with the order of the Knights of Columbus.

JOHN H. PLAHN.

John H. Plahn, a well-known and substantial farmer of Hungerford township, this county, is a native son of Plymouth county, born on the farm on which he is now living, in section 26 of Hungerford township, and has lived there all his life. He is a son of the late John H. and Mary (Corniles) Plahn, natives of Germany and pioneers of this county.

John H. Plahn, Sr., came to the United States when he was twenty-one years of age and, after prospecting quite a bit throughout the West, settled in this county, one of the early settlers of Hungerford township, where he became the owner of a fine farm of two hundred and forty acres in sections 26 and 27. He married after coming to this county and upon his retirement from the active labors of the farm returned to his native land, where he died on April 7, 1915, being then seventy-five years of age. To him and his wife were born five children, of whom the subject of this sketch



JOHN H. PLAHN AND FAMILY

was the second in order of birth, the others being Emmet, Peter, William and Rose.

The junior John H. Plahn was reared on the home farm in Hungerford township, receiving his schooling in the schools of that township and from the days of his boyhood proving a valued assistant to his father in the labors of developing the farm. Upon his father's retirement from the farm he assumed direction of the same and is now the owner of the original tract of two hundred and forty acres, his home being situated five miles southeast of Hinton, where he and his family are very comfortably situated. Since coming into possession of the place Mr. Plahn has made some important improvements and now has a well-kept and profitably cultivated place.

On March 7, 1900, John H. Plahn was united in marriage to Maggie Steffins and to this union two children have been born, Herman and Clara. Mr. and Mrs. Plahn are members of the German Lutheran church and take an earnest interest in the affairs of the same, as well as in the general social activities of the community in which they live and are helpful in promoting all worthy causes thereabout.

PETER NILLES.

Peter Nilles, a well-known and prominent retired farmer of Remsen, was born in Luxemburg on August 14, 1856, the son of Anton and Elizabeth Nilles, both of whom were natives of that country and there received their education, grew up and were married. Anton Nilles learned the shoemaker trade and continued in that work in his native land until his death, where he and his wife died some years ago. They were devout members of the Catholic church and lived most consistent Christian lives and reared their children in the faith of that church. Of their ten children only two, Peter and Margaret, are now living.

Peter Nilles received his education in the schools of Luxemburg and as a lad learned the trade of a shoemaker, at which he worked for a time, and then engaged as a farm hand. In 1879 he decided to come to America, and on his arrival in this country he located for a time in Chicago, Illinois, where he worked as a laborer for three years, at the end of which time he came to Plymouth county, and worked as a farm hand for two years, when he purchased one hundred and twenty-seven acres of land in Marion township at

twenty dollars per acre. This tract was only partially developed and had but inferior improvements. He at once engaged in the task of making the tract one of the best in the district and here he engaged in general farming and stock raising for fifteen years. He then purchased one hundred and sixty acres in Marion and Remsen townships, to which he added until he became the owner of four hundred and seven acres of most excellent land. Here he did much in the way of development and placed many fine structures and engaged in his chosen work of farming and stock raising until 1911, when he retired from the strenuous life on the farm and moved to Remsen. Having come to the United States a poor boy, he by his own efforts and hard work became one of the substantial and influential men of the community, honored and respected by all who knew him.

In 1884 Peter Nilles was united in marriage to Maggie Frank, the daughter of Dominick and Margaret (Heyman) Frank, and to this union eight children were born as follow: John, Nick, Dominick, Hubert, Joe, Mary, Peter and Anna. John married Lena Gengler and they are the parents of one child, Theodore; Nick married Annie Weiler and they have one child, Marie; Dominick married Mary Arend and they are the parents of two children, Mildred and Arthur; Joe married Mary Gengler; the others of the family are single and at home with their parents.

Maggie (Frank) Nilles was born in Chicago, Illinois. Her parents were natives of Luxemburg, where they received their education in the public schools and when young came to the United States and located in Chicago, where they were married. The father was gardener on a tract of land near Chicago for ten years, when he moved to Caledonia, Minnesota, and established himself on a farm, and where he lived for ten years, when in 1876 he came to Marion township, Plymouth county, and here purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land, which he developed and improved, and here he engaged in general farming and stock raising until the time of his death, he and his wife both having died on the home farm. They were the parents of eleven children, four of whom are now living, Nick, Catherine, Maggie and Dominick. Mr. and Mrs. Frank were devout members of the Catholic church and were prominent in the early social life of the community in which they lived and where they were held in the highest regard and esteem by all who knew them.

Peter and Maggie Nilles are also members of the Catholic church and have ever lived a true life, consistent with the teachings of their church and have reared their children in the faith of the denomination. They are mem-

bers and supporters of the various societies of the church and are prominent in the social life of the community. They have established themselves in the hearts of the people of their district, where they are admired by all. Mr. Nilles has always taken an active interest in local affairs and is identified with the Republican party, but has never aspired to office.

A. H. JASTRAM, M. D.

A. H. Jastram, a well-known and prominent physician of Remsen, Plymouth county, was born in Stephenson county, Illinois, at the town of Freeport on December 5, 1871, and is the son of Christian and Sophia (Mernitz) Jastram, both of whom were born in northern Germany.

Christian and Sophia Jastram received their education in the schools of their native country and there grew to manhood and womanhood. They came to the United States single and were married in the state of Illinois, where they had located. On coming to this country, Mr. Jastram clerked for a wholesale farm implement company in Chicago, where he remained for some time, when he moved to Freeport in 1866 and there engaged in the implement business. After some years of business at that place he moved to Cuming county, Nebraska, where he engaged in general farming and stock raising for some years. He then retired from the active duties of life and moved to West Point, Nebraska, where he lived with his children for some time, then moved, after the death of his wife, back to Freeport, Illinois, where he died in 1906. Mr. and Mrs. Jastram were people of unusual attainments and were held in the highest regard and esteem by all who knew them. They took much interest in the education of their children and in the general development of the district in which they lived.

A. H. Jastram received his education in the schools of Nebraska and graduated in the high school at West Point in the class of 1891. After completing his education in the public schools he attended the Morningside College at Sioux City for a time; then in 1894 entered Sioux City College of Medicine and received his degree of Doctor of Medicine in 1897, after which he served one year in the St. Joseph's hospital in Sioux City, as an interne. After completing his education he located at Remsen in the practice of his chosen profession. In 1902 he was given the degree of Master of Philosophy by Morningside College. He is also a registered druggist, having attained this distinction in 1901. He is a member of the American Medical Associa-

tion as well as the State Medical Association and the local county society, in all of which he takes an active interest. He has been the local surgeon for the Illinois Central Railroad Company since 1902, and is today a member of the Railway Surgeons Association.

Doctor Jastram was not one of the men who had the necessary funds to complete his college career, but by hard work and his own exertions he succeeded in completing his work and receiving his degrees. And it has been by close application to his business, combined with his well-versed knowledge of medicine, that he has met with much success in the vicinity where he now practices.

Doctor Jastram was united in marriage in 1907 to Elizabeth Wagner, the daughter of Charles and Mary (Galles) Wagner, and to this union two children have been born, Cecil Alfred and William Charles. Doctor Jastram is a member of the Masonic order and has attained to the thirty-second degree.

PETER HOMAN.

Peter Homan, one of the prominent residents of Remsen and a retired implement dealer and farmer, was born in Luxemburg on June 3, 1848, the son of Lewis and Susanna Homan.

Lewis and Susanna Homan were educated in the schools of Luxemburg and were there married. Lewis Homan followed the work of a laborer and stone-mason in his native land, where he lived until 1851, when he and his wife decided to come to America, where they might better have an opportunity to make a home for themselves and those dependent upon them. On their arrival in the United States they came at once to Iowa, and located in Jackson county, where Mr. Homan worked at his trade and later purchased land and engaged in general farming. He at first bought eighty acres of undeveloped land, all that he could at that time afford to buy. By hard work and close economy, he and his wife put forth their best efforts to make their lives a success. The original farm of eighty acres was developed and improved and in time the tract was extended until they were the owners of four hundred acres, all of which was well under cultivation and nicely improved. Here they engaged in the work of the farm until 1873, when they retired from the more active affairs of life, and lived retired lives until the time of their deaths some years ago.

Lewis and Susanna Homan were the parents of the following children,

Peter, Nicholas, John, Mary and Catherine, the former being the only one of the family living in Plymouth county. Mr. and Mrs. Homan were active members of the Catholic church and highly respected people.

Peter Homan received his education in the schools of Jackson county and there grew to manhood on the home farm, where he continued to farm for four years after his marriage. He then moved to Shelby county, Iowa, in 1874, where he established himself on a farm in Westphalia township and engaged in general farming for eight years. He later purchased one hundred and ninety acres of land in Sioux county as well as some in Plymouth county. He lived on the former farm for eleven months, when he came to Remsen, where he conducted a hotel and livery business and operated a threshing machine for ten years. He then sold his business and moved on his farm of three hundred and ten acres in Fredonia township, where he made extensive improvements and engaged in general farming and stock raising for fourteen years, being at that time one of the largest landowners in this section of the county.

It was while living on the farm in Fredonia township, that Mr. Homan became interested in the implement business at Remsen. After some years of active business life he sold and for two years lived a semi-retired life. He then associated himself with Henry Falke in the implement business, and the firm was known as the Falke-Homan Implement Company of Remsen. After five years of business life he again sold, since which time he has lived a retired life.

In 1870 Peter Homan was united in marriage to Angelica Arens, the daughter of John R. and Elizabeth (Ehleringer) Arens and to this union the following children have been born, Elizabeth, Susan, Mary, Louis, John, Nick, Margaret, Cecelia, Sophia, Peter, Frank, Clara and Isadore. Elizabeth, now deceased, was the wife of Joe Wictor and to them were born three children, Philomena, who is the wife of Henry Ahman; Angeline and Marie; Susan is the wife of John Meis and they are the parents of seven children, Alfonse, Sylvester, Peter, Gregory, Oliva, Mary and Martha; Mary is a nun at St. Frances convent and is now known as Sister Angelica; Louis married Anna Manderscheid; John married Celia Goble and they have two children, Clarence and Florence; Nick married Isabelle Wenner; Margaret is the wife of Frank Graff and is the mother of three children, Clarence, Callista and Roman; Cecelia is a nun at St. Frances convent and is known as Angelicus; Sophia is the wife of Joseph Schoofs and they are the parents of three children, Florence, Louis and Elizabeth; Peter married Rose Wenner and they have four children, Gordon, Elean, Marion and Gerald; Frank

married Margaret Schoofs, and Clara and Isadore are single and at home. Mr. and Mrs. Homan are devout members of the Catholic church and have exerted a large religious and moral influence on the community in which they live and where they are held in the highest regard and esteem by all who know them. For a number of years, Mr. Homan has served as trustee of the local church and is one of the influential men of the parish.

Angelica (Arens) Homan was born in 1849 in Luxemburg where she received much of her educational training. There her parents were of the farming class until 1863, when they came to the United States. On their arrival in this country they established their home on a farm in Jackson county, Iowa. This farm they developed and improved and he engaged in general farming and stock raising until the time of his death. He died in St. Donates, Iowa; she died in Remsen. They were members of the Catholic church and were prominent in the life of the church and the social life of the community. They were the parents of eleven children, seven of whom are now living: Anthony, Frank, Mrs. Mary Lehnertz, Angelica, the wife of Mr. Homan; Mrs. Margaret Mersch, Mrs. Antoinette Duster and Mrs. Susan Kass.

Peter Homan has had much to do with the progressive life of Plymouth county, both as a farmer and business man, in both of which he has been most successful. He is worthy of the confidence and respect that is shown him throughout the district.

PAUL BOEVER.

Luxemburg has given to Plymouth county some of her best men and women who have won distinction in the various walks of life in this county. Among the number who located on farms and assisted in the development of this section of the state and endured many of the hardships of early life on the farm, may well be mentioned Paul Boever, who was born on November 14, 1859, the son of Michael and Marie Boever.

Michael and Marie Boever were also natives of Luxemburg, and there received their education, were married and there lived their lives. Mr. Boever was a farmer and owned a small tract of land, where he and his wife died some years ago. They were prominent members of the local Catholic church and were active in the social life of the community. To them twelve children were born, four of whom are now in America as follow, Philip, Paul, John and Peter.

Paul Boever was educated in the schools of Luxemburg and there grew to manhood. He worked as a farm hand in his native land, until he was twenty-one years of age, when in 1872 he decided to seek a home in the United States. On his arrival in this country he located near Aurora, Illinois, where he was engaged as a farm hand for six years. He was then married and moved to Aurora, where he worked on a railroad construction train for two years. He then came to Plymouth county and established his home on a rented farm in Fredonia township, where he engaged in general farming for two years. At this time he purchased eighty acres of land in Remsen township, for which he paid thirteen dollars and seventy-five cents per acre. He later added forty acres to the farm, which he developed and improved and made his home for thirteen years, when he sold the place and moved to Marion township, where he bought one hundred and sixty acres of land, to which he later added forty acres. On this two-hundred-acre farm he spent several thousand dollars in substantial improvements, and developed his tract into one of the finest in this section of the township. Here he engaged in general farming and stock raising until 1910, when he retired and moved to Remsen.

On December 31, 1878, Paul Boever was united in marriage to Margaret Wengler, the daughter of William and Catherine (Wermes) Wengler, and to this union eight children were born as follow: William, Margaret, Frank, Anna, Rose, Matthew, John and Mary. William is the father of two children, Helen and Florence; Margaret is the wife of Charles Rodesch and to them have been born four children, Matilda, Paul, Frank and Theo; Frank married Ella Whitmen; Anna is the wife of J. P. Harmes and they have two children, Lawrence and Loretta; Rose is the wife of Henry Berding and they have three children, Clara, Clarence and Perry; Matthew married Margaret Gerens and they are the parents of one child, Catherine; John and Mary are single and at home. Mr. and Mrs. Boever are held in the highest esteem by the people of the community in which they have lived for so many years.

William and Catherine Wengler were born in Luxemburg, where they were educated and grew up. After their marriage they came to the United States and located at Aurora, Illinois, where the daughter, Margaret, was born. As a young man in his native land, Mr. Wengler learned the stonemason trade, which he followed in connection with farming after coming to Illinois. He and his wife spent their last days in Illinois, where they died some years ago. They were the parents of the following children, Catherine, Frank, Margaret, Kate, John and Matthew.

Paul and Margaret Boever are active members of the Catholic church at Remsen and are prominent in the social life of the church and of the community. Mr. Boever is identified with the Democratic party, and while taking a keen interest in the civic life of the county, he does not aspire to office. His life has been an active one and he has the confidence and respect of all.

JOHN W. HAUSCHILDT.

John W. Hauschildt a well-known and successful merchant and the postmaster of Brunsville, Plymouth county, Iowa, was born in Hamburg, Germany, on March 25, 1880, being the son of Jacob and Rebecca Hauschildt. The parents were natives of Germany and there lived their lives, where the father engaged as a broker in potatoes until the time of his death, some years ago. The subject was one of two children, he having a sister, Martha, who still resides in Hamburg.

John W. Hauschildt received his education in the schools of his native land and there grew to manhood. As a lad and when he had completed his education, he clerked in a general store, where he remained until 1901, when he came to the United States. On his arrival in this country he at once located at St. Paul, Minnesota, where he was employed as shipping clerk for the White Enameled Refrigerator Company and where he remained until 1909, when he came to Iowa and established himself in business at Galva, where he conducted a clothing store with success until 1911, at which time he moved to Brunsville, where he opened a general store and where he has since been in business. He has a well-stocked store and carries a complete line of general merchandise, well suited to his large trade. On July 28, 1915, his ability as a business man in the community was recognized and he was selected as postmaster, a position which he still holds with the greatest degree of satisfaction to all.

In 1903 John W. Hauschildt was united in marriage to Bertha Klett, the daughter of Fritz Klett and wife, and to this union three children have been born, namely, two who died in infancy and Fred. Mr. and Mrs. Hauschildt are active members of the German Lutheran church in Grant township and they have ever taken much interest in all religious and social work of the communities in which they have lived. At Galva, Mr. Hauschildt was president of the church organization and was one of the prominent and influential men of the society. He and his wife have had much influence on



MR. AND MRS. JOHN W. HATSCHILDE AND SON, FRED

the moral development of the community and are held in the highest regard and esteem by all who know them. They have always taken a keen interest in the schools of the town and are strong advocates of the best system of public schools possible. Mr. Hauschildt is a most progressive man, not alone in his own business affairs, but in the general development of the township and the county. Good roads and good schools are to him the essentials of the future greatness of this section of the state. His ability as a public-spirited man has long been recognized and he is now a member of the city council and a justice of the peace. He is identified with the Republican party, but devotes his best interest to the people rather than to party affiliation.

WILLIAM H. HOMBACH, M. D.

William H. Hombach, one of the well-known and successful young physicians and surgeons of Remsen, Plymouth county, was born in Carroll county, Iowa, in 1889, the son of Dr. W. P. Hombach and wife.

Dr. W. P. Hombach was born in Germany and when four years of age came, with his parents to America. The family located at Mendota, Illinois, where they lived for a time, after which they established their home at Boone, Iowa, and after a short residence at that place they moved to Carroll county. Here the son, W. P., completed his education in the schools of that county. After completing his education, he was for three years one of the successful teachers of the county, after which he was elected county auditor and served in that capacity for two terms. He then engaged in the real-estate business for two years, after which he attended the medical college of the University of Illinois and received his degree in 1901. He then entered the practice of his profession at Council Bluffs, Iowa, where he has since resided. He and his wife are the parents of six children, four of whom are doctors: Walter P., of Nebraska; Frank, of St. Margaret's Hospital, Kansas City, Kansas; Leo J., attending the Creighton Medical College at Omaha and William H., at Remsen.

William H. Hombach received his common-school education in the schools of Carroll county and at Council Bluffs. He then entered the Creighton University at Omaha, where he remained for two years, when he entered the St. Benedict College, Kansas, after which he returned to the Creighton University, where after four years he received his degree, in 1913. After receiving his degree he entered the St. Francis Hospital at Colorado

Springs, where he was an interne for a year and a half. In April, 1915, he located at Remsen, Iowa, where he has met with much success and has an extensive practice.

In 1913 William H. Hombach was united in marriage to Margaret Pierce, the daughter of Edwin Pierce, a well-known resident of the community. To this union one child has been born, Margaret. Mr. and Mrs. Hombach are devout members of the Catholic church and are prominent in the social life of the community, where they are held in high esteem. Doctor Hombach is a member of the Knights of Columbus, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and the Phi Beta Pi Fraternity. He holds his membership in the first two organizations at Council Bluffs. He is one of the active members of the County Medical Society and is also a member of the state society. He takes the utmost interest in all meetings of the profession and is recognized as one of the best read and thoroughly equipped practitioners in this part of the state, and has by his close application to business and pleasing manners, won the confidence of the people.

EUGENE F. KIEFFER.

Eugene F. Kieffer, editor and publisher of the *Bell* at Remsen, was born in that village and has lived there the greater part of his life. He was born on October 14, 1888, son of John P. and Anna (Gloden) Kieffer; natives of Luxemburg, who came to this country and became early residents of Plymouth county, the former being at the time of his death one of the best-known newspaper men in the county.

John P. Kieffer was born in 1848 and not long after coming to this county became connected with the newspaper business at Le Mars. He later established the *Bell* and *Die Glocke* at Remsen, but presently sold and went to Rock Island, Illinois, where for two years he was engaged in the publication of *Die Volks-Zeitung*, a German semi-weekly newspaper. He then went to Chicago, where he was engaged in the publication of the *Luxemburger Gazette* for four years, at the end of which time, in 1901, he returned to Remsen and bought the *Bell* and the *Enterprise*, consolidating the two papers, and continuing the publication of the same, under the name of the *Bell-Enterprise*, until his death, which occurred on March 1, 1912. John P. Kieffer was a Democrat and during the second administration of President Cleveland served as postmaster at Remsen. His widow is still living at

Remsen. They were the parents of six children, those besides the subject of this sketch, who is the youngest, being Mrs. L. A. Lloyd, Mrs. P. H. Hughes, Anna and Mrs. C. W. Brotherton, of Remsen, and George N. Kieffer, a banker, of Soldier, this state.

Eugene F. Kieffer was but a child when his parents moved from Remsen to Rock Island and his schooling was begun during their later residence at Chicago. He completed the common-school course after they returned to Remsen and was graduated from the high school there in 1906. He later spent a year at the Iowa State University and still later entered the department of journalism at Marquette College at Milwaukee and was thus adding to his practical and 'prentice knowledge of newspaper work, acquired in his father's office, when his father died. Dropping his work in the university he returned home to take charge of the *Bell-Enterprise* and has ever since been thus engaged, editor and publisher of the paper. As was his father, Mr. Kieffer is a Democrat and has ever since the days of his boyhood given his close attention to political affairs. He was a delegate to the last three state conventions of his party and is now and has been for the past four or five years chairman of the precinct committee in his home town. He is an active member of the Iowa State Press Association, in the meetings and deliberations of which he takes a warm interest, and is also a member of the Knights of Columbus, of the Catholic Order of Foresters and of the Luxemburger Brotherhood of America. He and his wife are members of the Catholic church and take a proper interest in parish affairs, as well as in the general social activities of the community in which they live and in which both were born.

On October 14, 1914, at Remsen, Eugene F. Kieffer was united in marriage to Emma Kass, who was born in that city in 1889, daughter of Nicholas Kass and wife, pioneers and influential residents of that community, and to this union one child has been born, a daughter, Jean Anna, born on September 17, 1916. Nicholas Kass, father of Mrs. Kieffer, has been for years a general merchant at Remsen and one of the most prominent business men in Plymouth county. He and his wife were the parents of seven children, those besides Mrs. Kieffer, the third in order of birth, being Charles, Mrs. C. J. Ahmann, Albert, Henry, Elenore and Marie, all residing in Remsen. Albert Kass is now a student of the law department of the Iowa State University (class of 1917), and has already passed the examination of the state board for admission to the bar. Henry Kass also is a student at the State University, taking a course in the College of Liberal Arts.

PETER H. KOCH.

Peter H. Koch, a well-known and substantial retired farmer of Plymouth county, now living at Remsen, is a native of Germany, but has been a resident of this country since the days of his early youth. He was born in Schleswig-Holstein on March 13, 1867, son of Ernest and Mary Koch, both natives of that same province, who came to the United States in 1875 and proceeded to Iowa, locating in Benton county, where Ernest Koch rented a farm and where he remained until 1884, when he came over into Plymouth county with his family and bought a quarter of a section of land in Henry township, paying twelve dollars and fifty cents an acre for the same. He set out a grove on that place, improved the farm in excellent shape and, as he prospered in his operations, added to his land holdings until he became the owner of five hundred and sixty acres. There he remained actively engaged in farming until 1891, when he turned the management of the place over to his son, the subject of this sketch, and spent the rest of his life in comfortable retirement on the farm, his death occurring in 1907. His widow, who still survives, is now making her home at Remsen. They were the parents of two sons, the subject of this sketch having had a brother, Henry, now deceased.

Peter H. Koch was about eight years of age when he came to this country with his parents and his boyhood was spent on the home farm in Benton county, this state, where he received his schooling. He was about eighteen years of age when the family moved to Plymouth county and he became a valuable assistant to his father in the labors of developing and improving the home farm. Following his marriage in 1891 and his father's retirement from the active management of the farm in that same year, Mr. Koch assumed the management of the same and continued to make his home there, giving his personal attention to the farming of three hundred and twenty acres of the place. There he remained, successfully engaged in farming and stock raising, until in August, 1915, when he retired from the farm and moved to Remsen, where he and his family are comfortably situated. Mr. Koch is a Republican and has ever given his earnest attention to local civic affairs. During his residence on the farm he served for many years as director of his local school district and for about six years as trustee of the township.

In 1891 Peter H. Koch was united in marriage to Meta Kahl, daughter of William Kahl and wife, and to this union three children have been born,

namely: Ernest, who married Anna Klasher and has one child, a daughter, Lottie; William, who married Mary Steffen and has one child, Roma; and Anna, who married Richard Kluver and has one child, a daughter, Meta. The Kochs have ever taken an earnest interest in the social activities of their home community and have been helpful in promoting various movements having to do with the advancement of the common welfare thereabout.

JOSEPH HEINIS.

Joseph Heinis, a well-known and substantial retired farmer of Plymouth county, now living at Remsen, is a native of France, but has lived in this country since he was seventeen years of age and in Plymouth county since the year 1882. He was born in the province of Alsace on February 3, 1854, son of Lawrence and Margaret Heinis, also native Alsations, who spent all their lives in that country. They were the parents of seven children, of whom three, Ambrose, John and Joseph, came to this country.

In 1871, the year following the Franco-Prussian War, in which struggle Alsace was taken over by the Germans, Joseph Heinis, then seventeen years of age, came to the United States and settled at Kankakee, Illinois, in the neighborhood of which place he was for six years engaged as a farm hand. He then married and rented a farm, farming on his own behalf in the vicinity of Kankakee for five years, at the end of which time, in 1882, he came over into Iowa and bought a quarter of a section of land in Remsen township, this county, where he and his wife established their home and where they remained until 1907, when they retired from the farm and moved to Remsen, where they are now living and where they are comfortably situated. Mr. Heinis did well in his farming operations in this county and as he prospered added to his land holdings until he became the owner of three hundred and twenty acres of well-improved land and was regarded as one of the substantial farmers of his neighborhood. Mr. Heinis is a Democrat and ever since coming to Plymouth county has given his earnest attention to local civic affairs, but has not been a seeker after office.

In 1877 Joseph Heinis was united in marriage, at Kankakee, Illinois, to Cecelia Meyers, who was born in that city, daughter of Paul Meyers and wife, Alsations, who later came to Plymouth county and settled on a farm, Mr. Meyers later engaging in the mercantile business at Marcus, where he spent his last days. He and his wife were the parents of four children, of

whom Mrs. Heinis was the first-born, the others being Elizabeth, Odelia and Albert. To Mr. and Mrs. Heinis six children have been born, namely: Lawrence, who married Susan Notham and has four children, Irene, Milo, Roy and Ruth; Albert, who married Annie Shoemaker and has one child, a daughter, Mabel; Adlai, who married Laura Kuntz and has one child, a daughter, Jane Anna; Mary, who married Peter Barnes and has the following children, Vivian, Joseph, Edward and Clara; Stella, who married Daniel Pinney and has one child, a son, Daniel Joseph Heinis, and Edith, who married Leo Ruck. The Heinises are members of the Catholic church at Remsen and Mr. Heinis is a member of the Catholic Mutual Protective Association.

GEORGE W. IRWIN.

George W. Irwin, former postmaster of Merrill and now living on his excellent farm in Liberty township, is one of Plymouth county's best-known pioneers, for years a school teacher in the earlier days, and has been a witness to and a participant in the development of this region since 1870, when he homesteaded a tract in Stanton township, one of the first settlers in that part of the county. Mr. Irwin is a native of the great Keystone state, born on a farm in Chester county, Pennsylvania, November 26, 1844, son of Joseph T. and Elizabeth (Heathery) Irwin, both natives of that same state, who spent all their lives there and who were the parents of ten children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the eighth in order of birth, the others being Israel L., Angeline, Thomas (who died in infancy), Margaret, Caroline, A. Clark, Anna, Elizabeth F. and Keziah.

George W. Irwin was reared on the home farm in Chester county, Pennsylvania, and was given an academic education, fitting himself for the teaching profession, and for several years spent his winters as a teacher in his home county. The Irwin farm, in common with most of the farms in that section of Pennsylvania, was plagued with an abundance of rocks, cropping out everywhere, and it was one of Mr. Irwin's boyhood tasks to help clear the farm of these rocks and stones. Once his father made a trip to Illinois and returned with a story of a wonderful prairie land where one could drive for miles and never see a rock or stone. That was a condition of soil that appealed very strongly to George W. Irwin's boyish fancy and he ever afterward entertained the thought of some day settling in a prairie country where there would be no rocks and stone to plague the life of the tiller of the soil. When about twenty-four years of age he began to hear

glowing stories of the great Minnesota country of the Northwest and in 1869 went to St. Paul to look around a bit. The winter following his arrival there he taught school at Lake Minnetonka and while there bought a small tract of land, three and three-fourths acres, lying some distance from St. Paul, in order to help out a man who wanted to raise a bit of money to pay his way out of that country. That tract, which Mr. Irwin held for a year or two before selling, is now a part of the city of St. Paul and is very valuable. In 1870 Mr. Irwin came down into Iowa and liked the looks of things in Plymouth county so well that he decided to locate here. He homesteaded a tract of eighty acres in Stanton township and sent for his sister, Angeline, to come out here and keep house for him. Upon her arrival she also took an eighty-acre homestead. The first house Mr. Irwin built was fourteen by eighteen feet, with a twelve-foot post, and was regarded as a fine house for that time and place. He began farming with oxen and the first year made a little progress in the way of breaking and improving his place. The second year he had in about thirty acres of small grain and got a good crop. During the grasshopper visitation he lost all he attempted to raise, but he stuck to it and presently saw his way clear. He remained on that homestead place for about sixteen years, spending his winters teaching school, and had the place well improved. In the meantime he was buying other land near Merrill and acquired three hundred and sixty acres, later moving onto his farm in Plymouth township, where he lived until 1897, when, following his appointment to the position of postmaster of Merrill, he sold his farm and moved to Merrill, where he made his home until the expiration of his term of office in 1915, he having been postmaster of Merrill for more than seventeen years. About 1898 Mr. Irwin had bought a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in section 14 of Liberty township, put up a set of buildings on the place and rented it out. When he left the postoffice he moved onto that farm and is there now making his home, though he has rented his place, with the expectation of presently retiring from the farm and returning to Merrill. Mr. Irwin is a Republican and in addition to having served for so many years as postmaster of Merrill has held various township offices and has ever given his thoughtful attention to the affairs of local government.

Mr. Irwin has been twice married. In 1881 he was united in marriage to Carrie Reinard, who died in 1886, without issue, and in 1892 he married Debbie Cox, to which union one child has been born, a son, Milton G. Irwin, who was graduated from the Merrill and Le Mars high schools and is now a student at Morningside College. The Irwins are members of the Methodist Episcopal church at Merrill and Mr. Irwin is a member of the board of trustees of the same.

FRANK P. MILLS.

Frank P. Mills a well-to-do retired farmer of this county, proprietor of the Bank of Westfield at Westfield and dealer in live stock at that place, is a native son of Plymouth county and has lived here all his life. He was born on the old Mills homestead place in Sioux township on March 16, 1874, son of David M. and Sarah (Robertson) Mills, pioneers of that section of the county and among the best-known and most influential residents of that neighborhood, further mention of whom is made in a biographical sketch relating to Milo S. Mills, brother of the subject of this sketch, presented elsewhere in this volume.

Reared on the homestead farm on which he was born, Frank P. Mills received his elementary schooling in the district school of his home neighborhood and supplemented the same by a course in the high school at Sioux City, meanwhile aiding in the labors of the home farm, and remained at home until the time of his father's death in 1892. The estate then was divided, the share of Frank P. Mills being five hundred and twenty acres of fine valley land in Sioux township, near the Big Sioux river. Though but eighteen years of age at the time, Mr. Mills assumed the responsibility and straightway started in to further improve and develop that portion of the farm which had come to him and he was successful from the start of his individual operations. From the beginning he paid large attention to the raising of cattle and hogs and most of the grain raised on his place was profitably fed to his stock, Hereford cattle and Duroc-Jersey hogs being his specialties. After his marriage in 1901 Mr. Mills established his home on his place and gradually added to the same until he became the owner of eight hundred and forty acres of well-cultivated and highly-improved land, three hundred and twenty acres of which he later sold, but still retains his original tract of five hundred and twenty acres, on which there are two sets of substantial buildings, one new and modern in every respect and the other greatly improved since he came into possession. Mr. Mills continued farming in Sioux township until 1915, in which year he retired from the farm and with his family moved to Westfield, where he has a very pleasant home. Upon locating at Westfield Mr. Mills opened the Bank of Westfield, a private concern, of which he is president and sole owner. The bank was started with a capital stock of ten thousand dollars and Frank Anderson is the cashier and Thomas Haynes, assistant cashier. A further five thousand dollars has been added to the capital, making the latter fifteen thousand dol-

lars. Mr. Mills also engaged in the buying and selling of live stock upon locating at Westfield and has been quite successful in that line, annually shipping to Chicago and to Sioux City large quantities of stock. He is a Republican and during his residence on the farm for some time served the public as township trustee in Sioux township, as well as in other public capacities and is now treasurer of Westfield township.

In February, 1901, Frank P. Mills was united in marriage to Clara Butler, of Elk Point, South Dakota, daughter of J. B. Butler and wife, and to this union four children have been born, David Milor, deceased; Gladys A., John Joseph, also deceased, and Frank C. Mr. and Mrs. Mills are members of the Catholic church and take a proper interest in parish affairs, as well as in the general social activities of the community in which they live, helpful in advancing all movements designed to promote the common interest thereabout.

JOHN J. EDWARDS.

The late John Edwards, for years one of the best-known and most substantial farmers of this county, was a native of Illinois, born in that state in 1831, and grew up amid pioneer conditions there. His father died when he was but a boy and his early opportunities for obtaining an education were thus restricted. Not long after this part of Iowa was opened for settlement he came out here and secured a tract of land in Elkhorn township, Plymouth county, thus becoming one of the pioneers of this county. In 1883 he married and for some time thereafter he and his wife made their home here, but later moved to Nebraska, where they remained for eight years, or until 1895, in which year they returned to Plymouth county and located in Union township, where Mr. Edwards spent the rest of his life, his death occurring in September, 1902. Mr. Edwards was a Republican and ever gave a good citizen's attention to local political affairs, though not a seeker after office. He was an earnest member of the Presbyterian church, as is his widow, and their children were reared in that faith.

In May, 1883, in Plymouth county, John J. Edwards was united in marriage to Zoe A. Clarke, who was born in Green Lake county, Wisconsin, daughter of J. W. and Ann (Stephens) Clarke, natives of England, who came to this country after their marriage and proceeded on out to Wisconsin, where they settled on a farm in Green Lake county. There Mrs. Clarke died in 1871 and Mr. Clarke later came out to this section of Iowa and settled on

a farm in Union township, this county, where he established his home, later going to California, where his death occurred in 1879. To him and his wife nine children had been born, namely: Phyllis Ann, who is now residing at Los Angeles, California; Frank H., who lives in California; Belle, deceased; W. S., of Le Mars, this county; Zoe A., widow of Mr. Edwards; Mary Ann, of Portland, Oregon; Josephine, of California; C. E., of Minnesota, and John W., of California.

To John J. and Zoe A. (Clarke) Edwards six children were born, as follow: Harry, who died at the age of seventeen years; John E., now of the United States navy, serving on the torpedo-boat destroyer, "Preble"; Clarke, of Omaha, Nebraska; Mary, who for three years taught school in Union and Henry townships, this county, married William McCartney, a well-known farmer of Union township, and has two children, Yale and Grace; Helen, who was graduated from Heald's Business College at Sacramento, California, May 19, 1916, and is now engaged as a commercial stenographer in that city, and one who died in infancy. Since the spring of 1915 Mrs. Edwards and her daughter, Helen, have been making their home in Sacramento.

ANTON WINTZ.

Anton Wintz, a well-known and prominent retired farmer of Remsen, Plymouth county, was born in the province of Rhineland, Germany, on October 26, 1840, the son of Rheinholtz and Mary (Wolf) Wintz.

Rheinholtz and Mary Wintz were also natives of Germany and there they received their education in the public schools, grew up and were married, and there their family was born. Mr. Wintz was a farmer in his native land and there he and his wife continued to live until 1869, when they decided to come to America. On their arrival in the United States they came direct to Dane county, Wisconsin, where they lived for seven years, after which they moved to Crestfield, Wisconsin, and there the father died some years ago. The mother later died in Iowa. Mr. and Mrs. Wintz were prominent in the social and the religious life of the community and Mr. Wintz always took much interest in local affairs. They were active members of the Catholic church and took much interest in all church work and were held in high regard and esteem, for their many acts of Christian conduct. Their lives were devoted to their family and to the betterment of the community in

which they lived. They were the parents of eight children, the subject of this sketch being the only one of the number now living.

Anton Wintz received his education in the public schools of his native land and there he grew to manhood, and continued to reside, until he was twenty-nine years of age. He was married in 1864, to Mary Schmidt, who also received her education in the public schools of Germany, and there grew to womanhood and lived until her marriage. In 1869 they decided to come to America, and after their arrival in the United States, they located in Dane county, Wisconsin, where they lived for seven years, and where Mr. Wintz engaged in farming. They then moved to Iowa and located in Butler county, where they remained for seven years, after which they came to Plymouth county, and here purchased a farm, which has been increased to three hundred and twenty acres, all of which is most excellent land and under a high state of cultivation, and well improved, and on this farm they have a fine house and a large barn, forty by ninety feet, with twenty-foot posts, and will hold two hundred tons of hay. The farm is well kept, and Mr. Wintz believes in intensive farming and thorough cultivation. Here he was engaged in general farming and stock raising and was particularly interested in the breeding and the raising of Angus cattle, draft horses and a high grade of hogs. He was recognized as one of the substantial and most successful farmers and stock men in the community, and his farm is one of the best and his stock was all of high grade.

Anton and Mary Wintz are the parents of the following children: Agnes, Maggie, Elizabeth, Matthew, John, Henry and John. Agnes lives in Nebraska; Maggie also lives in that state; Elizabeth lives in Remsen; the two Johns are both deceased; Matthew is a well-known farmer at Milford, Iowa, and Henry is deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Wintz are active members of the St. Mary's Catholic church and have always taken much interest in church work and were prominent in the social and the religious life of the community. Mr. Wintz served on the building committee in building a seventy-five thousand dollar Catholic church at Remsen; one of the most beautiful churches in Iowa. They have always been held in high regard and are a most hospitable people. They have always taken a keen interest in the education of the community, and were among the organizers of the St. Mary's Catholic school and Mr. Wintz assisted in the building of that well-known institution.

Until 1899, Anton Wintz devoted his time and attention to the interests of his farm and his stock, and became known as one of the prominent farmers and stock men of the township. At that time he retired from the activities

of farm life and moved to Remsen, where he has a fine home, and where he is one of the well-known residents of the place. He is a stockholder of the German Savings Bank, and has been one of the directors of that institution since its organization in January, 1904. He also served as treasurer of the German Catholic Farmers Mutual Insurance Company of Remsen, Iowa, for at least ten years. He has always taken much interest in the civic life of the township and the county, and is one of the prominent Democrats of the community, yet he has never aspired to office, and has been content to work for the betterment of the district as a private citizen. Mr. and Mrs. Wintz celebrated their golden wedding on their farm near Remsen on August 25, 1914.

JOHN VASKE.

John Vaske, a well-known and successful farmer of Remsen township, Plymouth county, was born in Dubuque county, Iowa, on August 28, 1872, the son of Bernard and Mary (Kramer) Vaske.

Bernard and Mary (Kramer) Vaske were born in Minster, Ohio, and there grew up and were married. As a young man, Bernard Vaske engaged in farming in his native state, at which he continued until he came to Iowa. He located in Dubuque county, where he obtained one hundred and ten acres of land, and there he engaged in general farming until 1889, when he removed to Plymouth county. Here the family settled in Marion township, and here they obtained two hundred and forty acres of land. He began the task of developing and improving the farm, but died in 1891, at the age of fifty-two years. The widow died in 1911, at the age of sixty-six years. They were active members of the Catholic church in Remsen and always took much interest in church work. They were the parents of the following children, Fred, Henry, Josephine, Clara, John and Elizabeth. Fred is now deceased; John is the subject of this sketch; Henry is a farmer at Wilmot, Minnesota; Josephine is the wife of Albert Johanning, of Wilmot, Minnesota; Clara is the wife of G. J. Minsen, of Lismore, Minnesota, and Elizabeth is the wife of Benjamin Vanderharr, of Madison, Minnesota.

John Vaske received his education in the parochial school at New Vienna, Iowa, and grew to manhood on the home farm. As a lad and young man he assisted his father with the farm work, and after the father's death, he farmed the place for his mother for eight years, at which time the place was sold. After the old farm had been disposed of, John Vaske rented land in

the county, and at the same time he purchased one hundred and sixty acres near Wilmot, Minnesota. He never lived on the farm he purchased there, but continued to rent land in Fredonia and Marion townships, for nine years. He then purchased one hundred and twenty acres of land in Remsen township, and here he has made many improvements in the way of buildings and fencing, and today has one of the ideal farms of the township, and here he is engaged in general farming and stock raising.

On June 25, 1902, John Vaske was united in marriage to Josephine Bohlke, the daughter of Fred and Kate (Stundebeck) Bohlke, both of whom were natives of Oldenburg, Germany, where they were educated, grew to manhood and womanhood and were married. They later came to the United States, and located in Marion township, Plymouth county. Here the father died some years ago and the mother is still living in Remsen. To John and Josephine Vaske have been born four children, Celestia, Cleatus, Maline and Catherine. Mr. and Mrs. Vaske are members of the Catholic church and are prominent in the social and the religious life of the community. Mr. Vaske is identified with the Democratic party, and has long taken an active interest in the civic affairs of the township.

DANIEL LUCHSINGER.

Daniel Luchsinger, one of Plymouth county's substantial pioneer farmers and the proprietor of an excellent farm in Hancock township, is a native son of Iowa and has lived in this state most of his life. He was born in Dubuque county on February 15, 1852, son of Casper and Margaret Luchsinger, natives of Switzerland, who were married there and who came to this country in 1844, settling in Dubuque county, this state, where they spent the remainder of their lives. They were the parents of six children, Casper, Daniel, Ellen, Adam, Jacob and Margaret, the latter of whom died when she was fourteen years of age. Adam and Jacob Luchsinger, both of whom were veterans of the Civil War, also are dead. Daniel Luchsinger also had a half-brother, Fred Luchsinger, now deceased, who also was a veteran of the Civil War.

Daniel Luchsinger was reared in Dubuque county and received his schooling there. As a lad he lived for two years with a family of the name of Ball and later, for two or three years, made his home with the family of George LeBrune, working for him during the summers and attending school

during the winters. When a young man he went to North Dakota, taking employment with O. C. Treadway, of Sioux City, who had taken a contract for supplying a great quantity of hay and cordwood for the United States army post in North Dakota, and remained thus engaged for nine months. While there he entered a pre-emption claim to a quarter of a section of land in the vicinity of Sioux Falls, but in about two months abandoned the same, having come to the conclusion that the land never would amount to anything. Mr. Luchsinger then returned to Dubuque and in 1872 was married there. The next year, in 1873, he and his wife came out to Plymouth county and settled on a homestead tract of eighty-four acres in section 6 of Perry township. While developing that tract and incidentally battling with grasshoppers, Mr. Luchsinger spent a portion of his time for about six years working on railroad construction work in Iowa, Nebraska, South Dakota and Minnesota, and in 1879 traded his original homestead in Perry township and took a homestead of eighty acres in section 2 of Hancock township, where he since has made his home. He has developed that tract into a fine farm, well and substantially improved, and for years has been regarded as one of the leading farmers and stockmen in that part of the county. Mr. Luchsinger has long given much attention to the raising of live stock and rents, in addition to his own place, about five hundred acres of pasture land in that locality. Mr. Luchsinger is a Republican and has served his district in the capacity of supervisor of roads. He is a member of the Woodmen of the World and takes a warm interest in the affairs of that order.

In 1872 Daniel Luchsinger was united in marriage to Mary Jane Atkinson, daughter of Joseph and Jane Atkinson, of Dubuque, and to this union eight children have been born, namely: Bert, who is assisting his father in the management of the home farm; Frank, who is engaged in the retail meat business at Lincoln, Nebraska; Daniel W., who is farming in Mille Lacs county, Minnesota; Clarence, who is farming in that same county; Fred, who is at home with his parents; Bertha, who married Fred Perley, of Sioux City; Phyllis, who married A. Fels, a telephone man in Nebraska, and Florence, who married C. Keck, of Dubuque. Mr. and Mrs. Luchsinger attend the Congregational church and have ever given their attention to all movements having to do with the advancement of the best interests of their home community. They have been residents of this county since pioneer days and have seen many notable changes in the way of living since those days.

JOHN LOUTSCH.

John Loutsch, for many years a well-known and successful farmer and stockman of Plymouth county, and now retired at Remsen, was born in Luxemburg on April 14, 1851, the son of Nick and Annie Loutsch, both of whom were natives of that country and there received their education in the public schools, grew up, were married, and there they lived their lives. The father was a farmer and he and his wife were among the highly respected people of the community, where they were held in the highest regard and esteem by all who knew them. They were the parents of five children, two of whom are now living, Lena who lives in Luxemburg and John of Plymouth county, Iowa. Mr. and Mrs. Loutsch were active members of the Catholic church and took much interest in the social and the civic life of the district in which they lived. Their deaths occurred some years ago.

John Loutsch received a limited education in the schools of his native country, and at the age of twelve years he engaged in work as a farm hand, and continued in that work until he was twenty years of age, when he decided that he would come to America, where he had a better chance to make a home and become more independent. After his arrival in this country he came to Iowa, where he located in Dubuque county, and there worked as a farm hand for seven years. He was then married and came to Plymouth county, where he established his home on eighty acres of land in Marion township, which he purchased in 1879 at six dollars and twenty-five cents per acre. The tract at that time was all undeveloped and unimproved. Mr. Loutsch at once built a small house and straw barn on the place and engaged in the breaking of the tough prairie sod, which had for ages grown nothing but the tall prairie grass. He engaged in general farming and later was an extensive breeder of Belgian horses, and raised many cattle and hogs. As he prospered he invested in land and became the owner of two hundred and forty acres in Marion township and two hundred and forty acres in Remsen township. He continued to devote his life to general farming and stock raising until March, 1915, when he retired from the active duties of the farm and moved to Remsen, where he now lives. He still takes much interest in the affairs of the community and is recognized as one of the substantial men of the district.

In 1880 John Loutsch was united in marriage in Dubuque county to Susan Hansen, the daughter of Peter Hansen and wife, and to this union eight children have been born as follow: Mary, Anna, Dominick, Maggie,

Kate, John, Mike and Emil. Mary is the wife of Joe Schroeden and they are the parents of four children as follow: Clarence, Raymond, Helen and Conrad; Anna is the wife of William Conrad and they are the parents of the following children, John, Angeline and Susan; Dominick married Kate Newhouse; Maggie is the wife of John Ritz and they have one child, Etta; Kate is the wife of Nick Ruba and is the mother of one child, Barthel; John, Mike and Emil are single and at home.

John Loutsch was a poor boy who came to America alone to seek a home and a competency. By hard work and close application to business, he has met with much success and has won for himself a place among the substantial and successful men of this section of the county.

Mr. and Mrs. Loutsch are devout members of the Catholic church and are among the highly respected residents of the county, where they have lived for so many years and where they have had so much to do with the moral and social wellbeing of the district, as well as the civic development of the township and the county. Mr. Loutsch has always taken an active interest in the local affairs of the township in which he lives, and was for a number of years road boss and a school director. He has long been an independent voter and feels that he can best serve the interests of the people by being so. He is a man of high moral standards and pronounced views, and his advice is often sought on important matters of the local concern.

FRITZ ROEPKE.

Fritz Roepke, a well-known farmer of Lincoln township, this county, and former trustee of that township, is a native of Germany, but has been a resident of this country since he was twenty years of age and of Plymouth county since 1887. He was born in the province of Pommern on March 21, 1861, son of William and Minnie (Grotzke) Roepke, natives of that same country, the latter of whom died there. William Roepke afterward married Hannah Long. By his two marriages he was the father of the following children: Emma, Johannah, Otilla, August, Julius, Caroline, Carl, Fritz, Bertha Wilhelmena, deceased, and Ernestine. In 1889 William Roepke, who was a shepherd in his native land, came to this country and joined his son, Fritz, who had located in this county a couple of years previously, and here he is still living, now retired. He was a trained soldier in his native

land and is a member of the German Lutheran church, in which faith his children were reared.

In 1881 Fritz Roepke came to the United States, landing at the port of New York. For some years he remained in New York state, working as a farmer, and in 1887 came to Iowa, locating in Plymouth county, where he bought a tract of two hundred and forty acres in section 26 of Lincoln township and proceeded to improve the same. He has made excellent improvements on his place and long has been regarded as one of the substantial residents of that part of the county. For the most part his land is rented out and Mr. Roepke is now living practically retired from the labors of the farm. He has ever given his earnest attention to local civic affairs and for some time served as trustee of Lincoln township. Mr. Roepke is unmarried. He is a member of the German Lutheran church and gives proper attention to the affairs of the same. Further reference to the Roepke family in this county is made elsewhere in this volume in a biographical sketch relating to Mr. Roepke's brother, Carl Roepke, to which the attention of the reader is invited in this connection.

PETER LAUTERS.

Peter Lauters, a well-to-do farmer and stockman of Remsen township, Plymouth county, was born in Luxemburg, Germany, on September 27, 1865, and was the son of Nicholas and Susan (Steil) Lauters.

Nicholas and Susan (Steil) Lauters were also natives of Germany, and there they received their education in the public schools, and after their marriage continued to live in their native land until 1866, when they decided to come to America, where it might be possible for them to obtain a home for themselves and their family. After having landed in the United States, they located at Dubuque, Iowa, where they continued to live, until 1885, when they came to Plymouth county. Here he and his wife established a home on a farm, and Mr. Lauters was soon recognized as one of the influential men of the county. He was selected as superintendent of the Plymouth county poor farm, which he managed successfully for a number of years. He engaged in farming until 1899, when he retired and moved to Le Mars, where he died in 1900 at the age of sixty-five years. The widow died in 1907 at the age of seventy-three years. They were devout members of the Catholic church, and were held in the highest esteem by all who knew them.

They were the parents of the following children, Theodore, George, Peter, John, J. C., Martin, Anna, Mary, Michael and two that died in infancy. Theodore is a resident of South Dakota; George lives at Seattle, Washington; John is a farmer of Marion township; J. C. is a traveling salesman for the Emerson Plow Company, and resides at Le Mars; Martin is a mechanic at Dubuque, Iowa; Anna, Mary and Michael are now deceased, Mary having died at the age of twelve years and Michael at the age of eleven years.

Peter Lauters received the greater part of his education in the parochial schools, and was reared in the faith of the Catholic church. He remained at home until he was twenty-six years of age, at which time he rented land in Marion township, where and in Fredonia township he rented land until 1906, when he purchased his present farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Remsen township. He has made many valuable improvements on the place and is engaged in general farming and stock raising, and has met with much success.

In July, 1889, Peter Lauters was united in marriage to Jennie Forrete, who was born in Bellevue, Iowa, and is the daughter of Nicholas and Ann (Capeisus) Forrete, who were born in France and Germany, respectively. Some years after their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Forrete came to the United States, and later established their home in America township, Plymouth county. Some years later they moved to Meadow township and later to Adrian, Minnesota, where they died.

To Peter and Jennie Lauters have been born the following children, Susan, Margaret, Nicholas, Mary, Laura, Oliva, Lucy, Marcella, Raymond and Armela. Susan died in infancy; Margaret is the wife of John Schneiders, a mail carrier at Remsen, Iowa; Nicholas married Helen Nothem, of Remsen, and is engaged in farming in Meadow township; Mary is a dressmaker at Le Mars; Laura is a teacher in the home school; Oliva is attending high school at Remsen, and the other children are at home and are attending the local school.

Mr. and Mrs. Lauters are prominent members of the Catholic church at Remsen, and are held in high regard in the community in which they live. Mr. Lauters is regarded as one of the well-posted and substantial farmers of the township, and is widely known throughout the county. He has always taken a keen interest in the affairs of the township and the county, and for seven years has served as township trustee. For the years he was a director of his school district, after having filled many of the other officers of the township. He is identified with the Democratic party, yet is not partisan, and works for the best interests of the people.

JOHN ERIKSON.

It is always a pleasure to note the successful career of the man who has won a definite goal in life, and especially is this true of one who has left his native home and cast his lot in a new world, amid new and strange conditions. Such men are, for the most part, of sterling worth, filled with the desire to accomplish something for themselves and those that are dependent upon them. Many of the men influential in promoting the industrial affairs of Plymouth county, trace their success to the inheritance of the Swedish traits of character. The attributes of thrift, integrity and perseverance, which are inherent in citizens of Sweden have found expression in the works of these men who came to Plymouth county. Among those men of Sweden who came to the county in an early day, few are better known and have had more to do with the development and early history of the county, than has John Erikson, one of the pioneer settlers of Grant township, Plymouth county. Mr. Erikson was born in Sweden on August 1, 1840, being the son of Erik and Kajsa (Hanson) Everson.

Erik and Kajsa (Hanson) Everson were also natives of Sweden, where they received their education, were married and lived their lives. As a young man Erik Everson engaged in farming, at which work he was engaged until the time of his death some years ago. Mr. and Mrs. Everson were the parents of the following children, John, the subject of this sketch; Anna, who lives in Sweden; John, now deceased; Hans, a resident of Le Mars, Iowa; Lena, a resident of Sioux City, Iowa, and Caroline, of Sweden.

John Erikson received a common-school education in the schools of his native land, where he grew to manhood and where he engaged in farming. In 1869 he decided to come to America, and on his arrival in the United States he came at once to Illinois, where he worked in Dekalb county for two seasons. In 1879 he came to Iowa, and here he purchased a homestead right to eighty acres of land in Grant township, Plymouth county. This farm is located in section 32, and he later added forty acres to the farm in the adjoining section 31. This farm he later developed and improved, and in time he became the owner of six hundred acres—one hundred and twenty acres in Grant, three hundred and twenty acres in Washington and one hundred and sixty acres in Johnson townships. During his active life he engaged in general farming and stock raising, in which he was most successful, and soon became recognized as one of the substantial men of the township, as well as the county.

On August 7, 1876, John Erikson was united in marriage to Marie Davidson, a native of Sweden and the daughter of David and Johanna (Hanson) Swanson. Her parents were also natives of that country and there the father was engaged in farming. They were the parents of the following children Hans, now deceased; Marie, the wife of John Erikson; Erik, who makes his home with Mr. Erikson, and Svenning, who is now deceased.

To John and Marie Erickson have been born two children, Hilda and Clara. Hilda is the wife of Charles Rowe, a well-known and successful farmer of Washington township, and they are the parents of five children, Mabel, Harlan, Edith, Ethel and Foster. Clara is at home with her parents.

John Erikson came to the United States a poor boy, and it has been only by the hardest work and the closest application to his business that he was able to succeed. For many years he has been known as one of the most substantial men of the township, and during his active life he was one of the progressive farmers and stock men of the township. Several years ago he retired from the active duties of farm life, but still lives on the farm, where he has made his home since 1879. He has always taken an active interest in local affairs, and has had much to do with the civic and the financial life of the community. Although he has never been an office seeker, he has exerted his influence in the selection of competent men to the official positions of the county, and his advice and influence have often been sought in matters that pertained to the affairs of the township or the county. He and his wife are active members of the Presbyterian church, and were long prominent in the social and the religious life of the district in which they have lived.

HENRY E. KOHLER.

Diversified farming is essential to profitable production and maintenance of soil fertility, but it is necessary to specialize on something to secure a superior standard of excellence. While Henry E. Kohler, one of the leading farmers of Fredonia township, Plymouth county, carries on general farming he has long specialized in certain standard breeds of live stock.

Mr. Kohler was born, March 6, 1874, at Elgin, Iowa, and is a son of Nicholas and Mary (Lang) Kohler, both natives of Switzerland, from which country they came, single, with their parents to America, locating near Elgin, Iowa. The father learned the tailor's trade in Europe, but after coming to the New World he worked at the carpenter's trade and farming. He was

born in Berne, Switzerland, November 21, 1833, and his wife was born on February 9, 1842. He died January 11, 1913. She died April 25, 1914. Nicholas Kohler was one of a family of four sons and one daughter. He came to Fredonia township, Plymouth county, in 1879, and brought up his family of eight children on the farm where his son, Joseph, now lives, and where he resided for a period of twenty-eight years, then retired from active life, moved to California, but came to Le Mars a year later and he and his wife spent their last days there. They belonged to the Evangelical Lutheran church at Remsen. He was first a Democrat and later a Republican. His children were named as follow: Alfred, who owns twenty-eight hundred and eighty acres in Moody county, South Dakota, married Matilda Miller, and they have seven children; Rosa married Gotfried Zangger, of Larchwood, Iowa, and they have five children; Lydia is the wife of A. J. Stang, of Le Mars, and they have five sons; Emma is the wife of C. C. Banghman, of Palo Alto, California, and they have one son; Henry E., of this sketch; Pauline lives at Palo Alto, California; Joseph, who is operating the old homestead in Fredonia township, married Lucy Hodapp and they have five children; Julia married Peter Tonsfeldt, of Meadow township, and they have four children.

Henry E. Kohler was educated in the public schools of his home community and in Le Mars Normal School. He started out for himself in 1897 and farmed two years before his marriage, which took place on March 2, 1899, to Lucy Weber, a native of Moline, Illinois, and a daughter of C. L. and Catherine (Hacksett) Weber, both natives of Berlin, Germany, from which country they came with their parents to America, single, and located at Freeport, Illinois. C. L. Weber was a blacksmith by trade, and he worked in the plow works at Freeport for some time, later moving to Moline, where he worked in the shops for a number of years. He came to Plymouth county in 1882 and bought five hundred and sixty acres in Fredonia township, on which he made his home for twenty-eight years, then lived in Le Mars six years, where his death occurred, August 2, 1915, at the age of sixty-four. His widow died at the home of Mrs. H. Kohler, Remsen, Iowa, on December 17, 1916. Their children were named as follow: Lena married John Ollimon, of Soldier, Idaho, and to them ten children have been born, two of whom are deceased; Anna married William Kilker, of Le Mars, and they have three sons; Sarah married William Reeves, of Le Mars, and they have four children; Lucy, wife of Mr. Kohler, of this sketch; Agnes married Charles Ladenberger, of Bismark, North Dakota, and they have three children; Louis, who lives on the home farm, married Cerelia Mullong, and

they have one child; Frank lives on the old Weber place, and he married Carrie Reintz, and they have one son; Della married Edward Detloff, who is farming just north of Le Mars, and they have one son.

To Henry Kohler and wife three sons have been born, namely: Elmer N., whose birth occurred on April 18, 1901; Frank A., born on December 3, 1907; and George H., born on November 1, 1912.

Mr. Kohler has lived on his present place in Fredonia township since his marriage. He owns three hundred and twenty acres in sections 25 and 26, and one hundred and sixty acres in section 14. He has kept his land under modern improvement, and in 1905 he built an eight-room residence, of hard pine finish, cement foundation, and he has gas lights and other modern fixtures. He has also built up-to-date outhouses, including a garage. In connection with a general farming business he raises Hereford and Short-horn cattle, Duroc-Jersey hogs, and formerly raised some of the finest Percheron horses in the county. He is now living practically retired from active life.

Politically, Mr. Kohler is a Republican. He has served as justice of the peace, road boss, as township clerk for two years, and school director for eighteen years. He belongs to the Evangelical Lutheran church at Remsen, of which he is a liberal supporter. With three others he installed the electric lights in the church edifice. He is one of the leaders in his community.

FRANK HENRY WEBER.

Frank Henry Weber, one of the successful and leading young farmers of Fredonia township, Plymouth county, was born on the old Weber homestead in the township on March 17, 1888, and was the son of Conrad L. and Caroline (Hackett) Weber.

Conrad L. and Caroline (Hackett) Weber, were both natives of Berlin, Germany, and there they received their education in the public schools and later came to the United States with their parents, who located at Freeport, Illinois, and it was here that Conrad L. Weber and Caroline Hackett were later married. As a young man, in his native country, Mr. Weber had learned the blacksmith trade, and on locating at Freeport with his parents, he worked in the plow factory for some time. He later moved to Moline, Illinois, where he worked for some years in the shops. In 1882, he came to Iowa, and here he located in Plymouth county, where he purchased five hundred and sixty

acres of land in Fredonia township. This farm he developed and improved, and here he engaged in general farming and stock raising, for twenty-eight years and was most successful. He then retired from the work on the farm and removed to Le Mars, where he lived a retired life for six years, until the time of his death on August 2, 1915, at the age of sixty-four years. The widow is still a resident of Le Mars. Mr. and Mrs. Weber always took much interest in the social and educational development of their home community, and were prominent in church work. They were the parents of the following children, Lena, Anna, Sarah, Lucy, Agnes, Louis, Frank Henry, and Della. Lena married John Oltman, and to them have been born ten children, two of whom are now deceased; Anna is the wife of William Kilker, of Le Mars, and they are the parents of three sons; Sarah married William Reeves, of Le Mars, and they are the parents of four children; Lucy is the wife of Henry H. Kohler; Agnes is the wife of Charles Ladenberger, of Bismark, North Dakota, and they have three children; Louis lives on the home farm, and married Cerelia Mullong, and they are the parents of one child; Frank Henry, married Carrie Reints and they live on the old Weber farm, and Della is the wife of Edward Detloff, and they are the parents of one son, and live just north of Le Mars.

Frank Henry Weber received his education in the public schools of Fredonia township, and grew to manhood on the home farm, where as a lad and young man he assisted his father with the work on the place until 1910. At that time he and his brother, Lewis, engaged in farming for themselves, and continued in the work together for three years. On February 4, 1913, Frank Henry Weber was united in marriage to Carrie Reints, who was born in Elgin township, Plymouth county. She is the daughter of Harry and Martha (Detloff) Reints, both of whom were born in Freeport, Illinois, where they received their education in the public schools and there grew to maturity and were married. They later came to Iowa and located in Elgin township, where Mr. Reints is recognized as one of the successful men of the township.

Frank Henry and Carrie Weber are the parents of one son, Conrad L., who was born on September 8, 1915. Soon after his marriage, Mr. Weber purchased one hundred and sixty acres of the home farm, and in addition to this he farms forty acres of another tract. The year of his marriage he erected a substantial two-story nine-room house, and has since made other valuable improvements, and today has one of the attractive farm homes of the community. His house is modern and supplied with every convenience. His other buildings are in keeping with his well-kept farm. His barn is fifty by

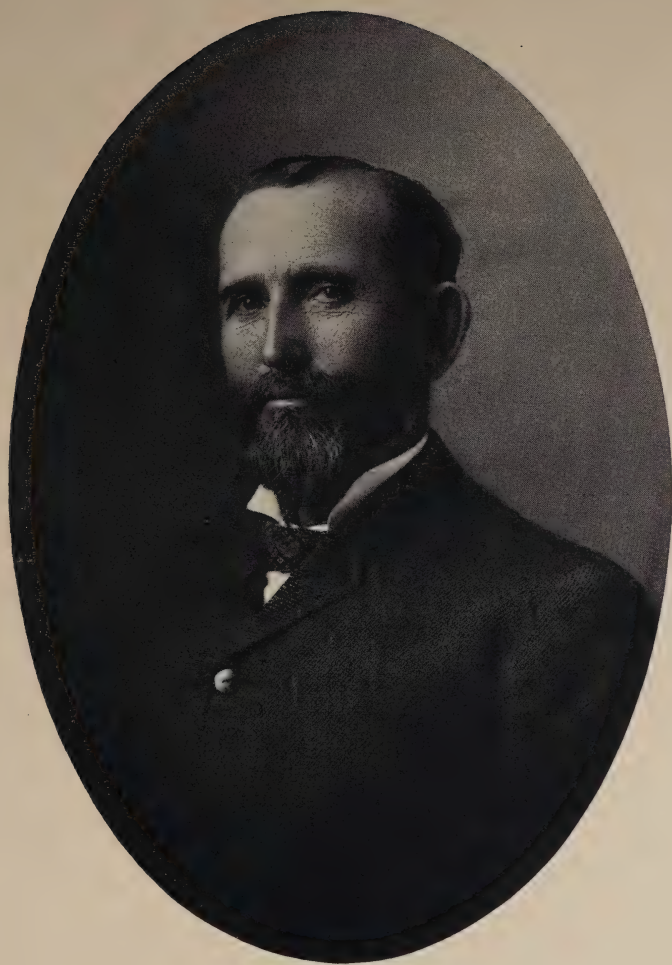
sixty feet, with a machine shed twenty by fifty feet; a granary, twenty-four by thirty-two feet, and a hog barn, twenty-four feet. Each year he raises about seventy acres of corn, sixty acres of small grain and eighteen acres of alfalfa. He raises some one hundred and seventy head of hogs, which he feeds on the place. In addition to his fine Poland China hogs, Mr. Weber has fifteen fine Shorthorn cattle.

Frank Henry Weber and wife are active members of the Presbyterian church, and take much interest in all church work, and are prominent in the social and the religious life of the community, where they are held in the highest regard and respect by all. Politically, Mr. Weber is identified with the Republican party and while he has never aspired to office, he has always taken an active interest in local affairs and is well known throughout the county.

EDMUND HOLDEN SPAULDING, SR.

Edmund Holden Spaulding, Sr., head of the firm of E. H. Spaulding & Sons, proprietors of the famous "Ridgeview Stock Ranch" at Westfield, this county, and for years recognized as one of the leading stockmen in this part of the country, is a native of the old Granite state, but has been a resident of Iowa since the days of his young manhood, having come to this state in 1870 and has consequently been a witness to and a participant in the wonderful development that has marked this region during the past forty-five years and more. He was born at Langdon, New Hampshire, October 22, 1848, son of Martin and Mary (Silsby) Spaulding, natives of Vermont, but later residents of New Hampshire, who spent all their lives in New England. Martin Spaulding was a well-to-do tanner and he and his wife were the parents of seven children.

The family moved to Rutland, Vermont, when Edmund H. Spaulding was ten years old and he engaged as a clerk in a shoe store, continuing that employment for three years, at the end of which time, in 1870, he came west, arriving at Sioux City on March 18 of that year. There he secured employment in the Mammoth shoe store and for two years was engaged as a clerk in that concern, after which he became a traveling salesman and was for eight years thus engaged. That was in the days before the railroads offered a ready means of communication throughout this part of the country and the greater part of Mr. Spaulding's commercial traveling was done by team over roads that were far from perfect. His territory included Iowa,



EDMUND H. SPAULDING, SR.

Nebraska, South Dakota and part of Minnesota and during the time he was thus traveling he became one of the most familiar figures in the commercial life of this region. In 1876 Mr. Spaulding married and in 1881 he decided to leave "the road" and settle down on a farm. With this end in view he bought a farm of four hundred and seventy acres in Woodbury county, near Sioux City, built the place up and went into the dairy business on a considerable scale, keeping one hundred and fifty or more dairy cows, besides numbers of feeding cattle and young stock, and was thus engaged there until he sold his place in 1888 and in March, 1889, moved to Sioux City, where he made his home until he came to this county in 1892 and settled on his present excellent location at Westfield. Upon coming to this county Mr. Spaulding bought the old William Foster place of one hundred and fifty-five acres, adjoining the village of Westfield, and resumed the live-stock business. As he branched out in that line he bought more land, including the old Judge Isaac Pendleton farm and part of the old I. T. Martin farm, until now he is the owner of seven hundred and twenty acres of fine land, all in one body, adjoining the village of Westfield on three sides, north, west and east. The Spaulding farm is called the "Ridgeview Stock Ranch" and Mr. Spaulding and his three sons, M. P. Spaulding, E. H. Spaulding, Jr., and D. W. Spaulding, under the firm name of E. H. Spaulding & Sons, are there engaged extensively in the raising of high-grade live stock, their product being widely known, recent shipments of their stock to Chicago having brought the top market for the year. The buildings required to operate such a plant as that maintained at "Ridgeview" constitute a small village in themselves and all are constructed along modern lines, according to the most approved and up-to-date plans for the proper care of live stock. This plant includes an elevator of fifteen thousand bushel capacity and a mill for grinding feed and the Spauldings also have their own private electric light and waterworks plants, all the buildings being thus lighted and furnished with a constant supply of pure, running water; the completeness of the outfit at the ranch making it one of the best known in this part of the country. The Polled Durham herd at "Ridgeview" is headed by the pure-bred registered sire, "Rome Clipper 409660," while one of the recent acquisitions of the ranch is a young registered bull, "Master's Marvel," which is attracting much attention among stockmen. The hogs raised on the ranch are of the imported English Tamworth stock. The elevator, the feed mill, the electric-light plant and the pump for the water-tower are operated by a large gasoline engine. Mr. Spaulding has a beautiful residence at the head of Main street,

in the village of Westfield; his eldest son, E. H. Spaulding, Jr., has an elegant home just outside of the village limits, north of the town, and the second son, Miles P. Spaulding, has the fine, large residence, the original center of the ranch plant, all three of these handsome residences having been erected by Mr. Spaulding on modern lines and all are equipped with heating plants, electric lights and running water.

On January 18, 1876, Edmund H. Spaulding was united in marriage to Abbie D. Penfield, who was born at Pittsford, Vermont, and to this union three sons have been born, Miles Penfield, Edmund H., Jr., and Dike William, the latter of whom is unmarried and makes his home with his parents. The eldest son, Miles P. Spaulding, was born at Sioux City on August 24, 1879, received his early schooling at that city and at Westfield and supplemented the same by a course in the academy at Yankton, from which he was graduated in 1899. From boyhood he has been a valued assistant to his father in the latter's stock-raising business and of recent years has been a partner in the affairs of "Ridgeview Stock Ranch." On January 8, 1908, he was united in marriage to Grace Main, daughter of George B. Main and wife, further mention of whom is made elsewhere in this volume, and to this union has been born one child, a son, Miles Penfield, Jr. For the past four or five years M. P. Spaulding has been trustee of Westfield township and for six years or more has been a member of the Westfield school board. The second son, Edmund H. Spaulding, Jr., was born at Sioux City on March 13, 1882, and also completed his common schooling at the academy at Yankton, from which he was graduated in 1899, after which he took a course in the Michigan Military Academy at Orchard Lake and was graduated from that institution in 1900. Later, he took a year in science and art at Yankton College and eighteen months of science at Iowa University, and shortly afterward was admitted to partnership in "Ridgeview." On September 10, 1910, he was united in marriage to Edith Wilcox, who was in college at Yankton during the time of his attendance there and later, for some time, was engaged as a teacher in the State Agricultural College at Brookings, and to this union two children have been born, Edmund H., third, and Mary. The Spauldings are members of the Congregational church and take a proper interest in the various beneficences of the same, as well as in the general social activities of the community in which they live, ever helpful in advancing all movements designed to promote the general welfare hereabout. Mr. Spaulding is a Republican and has served the public in his home community as township trustee and as a member of the school board.

GOTTLIEB E. BERNER.

Gottlieb E. Berner, a prominent resident and a well-known farmer of Stanton township, Plymouth county, was born on March 12, 1866. His parents were Gottlieb and Catherine (Beneek) Berner, both of whom were born in Germany and were there educated in the public schools. As a young man, Mr. Berner decided that he would be a farmer and engaged in that work during his residence in his native land. He later came to the United States, and on his arrival in this country, he came direct to Iowa, where he located on a farm in Jackson county, and where he resided for several years. The family later moved to Plymouth county and Mr. Berner purchased a farm in Plymouth township. That farm he and his wife developed and improved and there they lived until the time of their deaths some years ago. They were active members of the Evangelical church and were prominent in all social and religious activities. They were the parents of seven children, Jacob, Louisa, Christ, G. E., William, Mary and Daniel. Jacob is prominent farmer and stock man of Plymouth township; Louisa is the wife of George Zimmerman, a well-known farmer of this township; Christ is now deceased. William received his education at Cedar Falls, Iowa, and Chicago, Illinois, and is now a successful physician of Bellefourche, South Dakota; Mary is the wife of Henry H. Schindel, of Plymouth township and Daniel is a resident of Pomona, California.

Gottlieb E. Berner received his education in the public schools and grew to manhood on the home farm, where he remained until he was twenty-seven years of age. In February, 1894, he was united in marriage to Ida Knapp, a native of Plymouth county, and the daughter of Fred Knapp and wife of Merrill, Iowa. Mr. and Mrs. Berner have two children, Ray and Nina. The former is engaged with the Chalmers Automobile Company, at Detroit, Michigan, and Nina is at home. Mr. and Mrs. Berner are active members of the United Evangelical church of Stanton township, and have long been identified with the social and the religious life of that district.

For eight years after his marriage, Gottlieb E. Berner, engaged in farming in Plymouth township, after which he moved to Stanton township, where he purchased one hundred and twenty acres of land, on which he has since made his home. Since assuming possession of the place, he has made many substantial improvements, and today has one of the well-improved farms of the township. It is here that he is engaged in general farming and stock raising, and is interested in the raising and the breeding of Shorthorn cattle

and Duroc-Jersey hogs. He has had much success in his work and is today recognized as one of the substantial and influential men of the county. He is an independent Republican in politics, and has always taken an active interest in local affairs.

JAMES F. GORMAN.

James F. Gorman, a well-known and successful farmer and stockman of Liberty township, Plymouth county, was born at Galena, Illinois, on September 18, 1858, the son of Patrick and Anna (Sheridan) Gorman.

Patrick and Anna (Sheridan) Gorman were natives of Ireland and it was in that country they received their education and later came to the United States as young man and woman. Patrick Gorman came to America in 1848 and for some years worked near Buffalo and Utica, New York, and on the old Erie canal, which he helped build. He later came to Columbus, Ohio, where he met Anna Sheridan, who had come to the United States from her native land, some time before. They were married in 1854, and later moved to Galena, Illinois, where Mr. Gorman engaged in paving contract work until 1864. At this time he went to Golden, Colorado, where he worked in a gold mine for two years, near that place. He then returned to Galena, Illinois, and engaged in the transfer business for the next two years. In the spring of 1868, he came to Plymouth county, having made the journey with a team and covered wagon. Here he homesteaded eighty acres of wild prairie land, in section 10, Liberty township. There was at that time but one claim between his and Sioux City. He built a frame house, fourteen by sixteen feet. The house was built out of cottonwood lumber which he got from a little mill on Sioux Point, near Sioux river. It was but a short time till the boards were so warped that he had to sod the outside of the house to protect the family from the rains and the cold. It was in this house that the family lived for eight years, when a substantial frame house was erected.

During his first year's residence on the farm, Mr. Gorman succeeded in breaking a part of his land and planted some corn and potatoes, but the grasshoppers took the corn. In 1870, he had a good crop of corn and about twelve acres of wheat, the latter yielding him about one hundred bushels. The following years he was again troubled with the devastations of the grasshopper, but Mr. Gorman was determined to win and he remained on the farm, until the bright rays of success were shown on his little home. He

purchased more land, and at the time of his death, he was the owner of three hundred and twenty acres, well developed and nicely improved. He engaged in active life until 1884, when he retired to Sioux City, where he died on October 19, 1913, at the age of eighty-two years. His wife died in 1911, at the age of seventy-six years. They were the parents of eight children, only three of whom lived to maturity, James F., Katherine and Ellen, the latter having died at the age of seventeen years. Katherine is the widow of T. K. Martin and is a resident of Sioux City.

James F. Gorman received his earliest education in the schools of Galena, Illinois, and later attended school in the sod school house near his father's homestead, in Liberty township. This was the first school in this locality and the first teacher was Samuel Garner. James F. Gorman grew to manhood on the home farm, where he assisted his father with the pioneer work on the prairie land. At an early age he became most proficient in the handling of oxen, and with them he often made trips to Sioux City, which required some thirty-six hours. The grain was all taken to Sioux City in those days and was carried in sacks. These trips with the ox team were no pleasure journeys, over the prairie trails, which led over streams of water and creeks, without bridges. Many times when coming to one of these places, the load was such that the oxen could not ford the stream, and it became necessary for Mr. Gorman to put the sacks of grain on his back and carry them over, after which he could get his team through the water, and again load the grain on the wagon, and proceed to market. It was many years after this that the trails were converted into roads and the streams were supplied with bridges. Today, where once the early pioneer wended his way over the unbroken prairie and forded the streams, are well constructed roads and magnificent bridges. Today, the farmer glides over these roads in his automobile at the rate of thirty miles an hour, where once he plodded along with the slow and lazy oxen.

James F. Gorman lived with his parents until 1884, at which time he was married to Ellen Flynn and the parents retired from the farm. At this time Mr. Gorman assumed the management of the three hundred and twenty acre farm, and engaged in general farming and stock raising until 1909, when he moved to Colorado. There he purchased twelve hundred and eighty acres of stock land near Hereford, and engaged in stock raising for four years, when he sold the place and moved to Denver, where he engaged in the automobile business for two years. At this time he returned to the old homestead, where he is now residing. The farm and buildings were much run down during his absence, but he is now making many valuable improve-

ments and is planning to rebuild many of the buildings. Since the death of his father, he owns the entire farm, which is one of the desirable farming tracts in the township.

James F. and Ellen (Flynn) Gorman are the parents of the following children, Ann, Margaret, Patrick C., Francis James, Edward Nicholas, Joseph and Ellen. Ann is the wife of William McMahan and they are the parents of one child, Norbert I.; Margaret married Forrest Coon, of Correctionville, Iowa; Patrick married Justine Lechtenberg and they reside on a farm in Colorado; Francis James is farming at Hereford, Colorado, and is married to Grace Riley and the other children are at home with the parents. Mr. and Mrs. Gorman are devout members of the Catholic church and have reared the children in that faith.

Politically, James F. Gorman is identified with the Democratic party, and has always taken a keen interest in local affairs. For fourteen years he served as justice of the peace, and was for eight years clerk of the township and for eight years treasurer of the school board. He is one of the progressive and well-informed men of the township and is today recognized as one of the most substantial farmers. Coming to the county, as he did, when but a lad, and when the territory was one vast undeveloped plain, he has seen it all transformed into one of the greatest farming and stock districts, in the state of Iowa. In all this transformation he has taken an active part and is today in a position to enjoy many of the results of his early years of struggle and hardships.

HERMANN NITZSCHKE.

Germany has furnished a large number of the enterprising citizens to various localities of the United States, and almost invariably they have in time become property holders and made valuable citizens, loyal to our institutions and ready to lend whatever aid necessary in advancing the general good. Of this number may be mentioned Hermann Nitzschke, a well-to-do farmer of Remsen township, Plymouth county, who was born in Saxony, Germany, on April 17, 1861, the son of Edward and Julia (Meisner) Nitzschke.

Edward and Julia Nitzschke were also natives of Germany, and there they received their education in the public schools and later married and spent their lives in the land of their nativity. The father died in 1911, and the mother passed away in 1866. They were active members of the Lutheran

church and always took much interest in all church work. As a young man, Edward Nitzschke learned the moulder's trade, at which he spent his life, and was employed in one of the large foundries of his locality. He and his wife were the parents of two children, Laura and Hermann, the subject of this sketch. Laura is still living at her home in the fatherland.

Hermann Nitzschke received a good education in the schools of Germany. He started when six years old and continued until he was fourteen, when he started to work as a farm hand. He continued to work on the farm and in the coal mines of his native land until he was twenty-two years of age, when in 1883, he decided to come to America. He was the only one of the family who came to the United States, and on his arrival in this country, he came at once to the state of Iowa. Here he lived in Cherokee county, where he engaged in farming until 1887. At that time he came to Plymouth county, where he continued his farm work on a rented farm, for a number of years. In the spring of 1907 he purchased his present farm in Remsen township. Since assuming possession of the place, he has remodeled the house, installed waterworks, built a fine cow barn, corn crib, granary, cattle shed, as well as making many other valuable improvements.

On January 31, 1886, Hermann Nitzschke was united in marriage to Meta Hotzler, a native of Germany and the daughter of Bernard Hotzler and wife, both of whom were natives of that country. Some years after their marriage they came to the United States and located in Cherokee county, Iowa, where the father engaged in farming and later on moved to Minnesota, where he and his wife died some years ago.

Hermann and Meta Nitzschke are the parents of the following children, Ida, Edward, Laura, Paul, Otto, Willie, Martha, Herman, Elmer and Alfred. Ida is the wife of August Ericksen, a successful farmer of Remsen township; Laura is the wife of Fred Hanna, a well-known farmer of Henry township; Paul is farming with his brother, Edward, and Otto is working on a farm north of Remsen. Mrs. August Ericksen, their eldest daughter, was a teacher for a number of years before her marriage. Mrs. Nitzschke and her husband have always taken a keen interest in the education of their children. They all attended the common schools of their township, and later Ida, the eldest, attended the high school at Remsen.

Hermann Nitzschke is engaged in general farming and stock raising, in which he has been most successful, and is today recognized as one of the substantial men and successful farmers and stockmen of the township. He pays particular attention to the breeding of Hereford cattle, Duroc-Jersey hogs and draft horses. In addition to his interest on the farm, he has always

taken an active part in the affairs of the township, and has served on the school board for nine years, as he was for many years secretary and director. He and his wife are active members of the Evangelical Lutheran church of Cherokee county and have long been prominent in the social life of the district.

It has only been by the hardest work and closest application to his business, that Mr. Nitzschke has been able to accumulate his excellent farm of two hundred and forty acres, all of which is under high cultivation and well improved. He is a man that is universally admired and respected throughout the county.

RALPH STINTON.

Ralph Stinton, a well-known and successful young farmer of Johnson township, Plymouth county, was born on the old homestead in the township, on August 6, 1881, the son of Thomas and Josephine (Brown) Stinton.

Thomas Stinton, president of the Akron Savings Bank and one of the best known and most substantial residents of Plymouth county, was born in England, where he lived until he was five years of age. He was born in that country on November 11, 1846, and was the son of Robert and Sarah (Pretty) Stinton, both of whom were natives of England. It was there that they received their education in the public schools, grew to maturity and were married. They continued to reside in their native land and there the father engaged in general farming until 1852, when they decided to come to America. On their arrival in the United States, they came direct to Iowa, and located in Jackson county, where Mr. Stinton engaged in farming for a number of years, but later came to Plymouth county, where he purchased a farm of three hundred acres in Johnson township. Here Robert Stinton built up a beautiful and valuable farm, and here he engaged in general farming and stock raising, until the time of his death. His widow survived him but two years. Of the children, but two, Thomas and Alice, are living in the county. Alice is the wife of Edward Bradley and lives at Akron.

Thomas Stinton received his education in the public schools of Jackson county and was reared on the home farm, where he assisted his father with the farm work. He remained at home until he was twenty-one years of age, at which time he left home, and for three years he was engaged on steamboats, on railroads and in packing houses. In 1871, following his marriage, he came to Plymouth county and homesteaded a tract of eighty acres of land

in section 22, Johnson township, and here he established a home. He built a board shanty, with sod walls and shingle roof, and at once started to develop his farm. He had at that time a team of horses and two cows. During his early life on the farm he suffered many of the hardships of the early pioneer, but by constant effort, he in time succeeded in his work. He erected a more substantial house and a better barn and planted a fine grove of evergreens, from which the farm took its present name, "Evergreen Farm". An orchard was later planted and was developed into one of the best in this section of the country. As he prospered in his work as a farmer and stock man, Mr. Stinton enlarged his land holdings, until he became the owner of seven hundred and twenty acres of the best land, and became known as one of the most substantial farmers in the county. He continued in active farm work, until some twenty-five years ago, when he retired. His two sons are now farming three hundred and twenty acres, while the remainder is operated by other parties. In addition to his large farming interests, Mr. Stinton is a stockholder in the Akron Savings Bank, in which institution he was, some twenty years ago, elected a director, and nine years ago, was made president, which position he still holds.

In 1871, the year that he came to Plymouth county, Thomas Stinton was united in marriage to Josephine Brown, and to this union three children have been born, Ella, Walter and Ralph. Ella completed her education at the normal school at Le Mars, and for several years, was one of the successful teachers of the county. She later married W. W. Burrill, a prominent clothing merchant of Akron. They are the parents of two children, Lowell and Stanley. Walter married Lillian Hammond and is farming a part of the old home place. Ralph, the subject of this sketch, married Clara Bristow, and is also farming a part of the home farm. Since their marriage, Thomas Stinton and wife have made their home in Plymouth county, with the exception of one year that they spent in California. On their return from that state in 1908, they purchased their present handsome residence in Akron, where they now reside. They have long been active in the social life of the community and are held in the highest regard and esteem by all who know them.

Ralph Stinton, the youngest of the family, received his education in the public schools of Johnson township, and later attended the normal school at Le Mars for two years. He grew to manhood on the home farm, where as a lad and young man he assisted his father with the farm work, until the father retired from the active duties of the farm. At that time Ralph Stinton and his brother, Walter, formed a partnership in the management of three hun-

dred and twenty acres of the home farm. This partnership continued until 1914, when Walter Stinton was married in January of that year, and the partnership was dissolved. Ralph now has charge of one hundred and sixty acres of the home farm in section 22, and his brother has one hundred and sixty acres in section 21. A fine new set of buildings has been erected on the tract where Walter lives, and Ralph has the old homestead, which he keeps in a fine state of repair. In 1915 the house was remodeled and made one of the modern residences of the township. In addition to the remodeling of the house, several other buildings have been erected on the place.

In 1907 Ralph Stinton was united in marriage to Clara Bristow and to this union two children have been born, Hazel and Lorene. Mr. and Mrs. Stinton are prominent in the social life of the community and are held in the highest regard by all. Mr. Stinton is recognized as one of the prominent and successful farmers and stockmen of the township. He keeps a good grade of cattle and hogs, and his farm is recognized as one of the best developed in this section of the county.

CHRISTIAN P. KLOSTER.

We may not always realize it, but quite often little things rob a farmer of the joy of farming and living in the free open country. It may be broken-down gates, a half-destroyed string of fence, a leaky roof or a dozen other similar things that ought never to be found on a farm. These seemingly trivial things are often responsible not only for keeping the owner in a bad temper but also positively occasion loss in many ways. Realizing this fact Christian P. Kloster, of Fredonia township, has always kept everything about his farm in shipshape.

Mr. Kloster was born in Rodding, Schleswig, Germany, November 9, 1874. He is a son of Jens A. and Laurentine Kloster, a sketch of whom will be found on another page of this work. The subject of this sketch grew to manhood in his native land where he attended school until 1888, then clerked in a store at Rodding until 1890, in which year he immigrated to the United States, locating on a farm in Fredonia township, Plymouth county, working for his brothers near Oyens several years. In 1896 he rented eighty acres in Fredonia township until 1898, then farmed the Peterson place until 1901, when he moved to his present farm of eighty acres in Fredonia township for which he paid thirty-eight dollars per acre, later adding forty acres more,

for which he paid seventy dollars per acre, and subsequently added another forty, for which he paid one hundred and fifteen dollars per acre. He now has a well-improved and productive farm of one hundred and sixty acres. He set out a fine grove upon moving here, and has now a splendid group of buildings. He has made about five thousand dollars worth of improvements on the place. He carries on general farming and stock raising successfully, feeding most of the grain the place produces to cattle and hogs. He also does a dairy business, keeping an average of ten good cows. His place is known as the "Ash Hill Farm."

Mr. Kloster married Christina Nelson, daughter of Nis Nelson, and to this union five children were born, namely: Tena, Nis, Jens, Harold, and Herlig. The wife and mother passed away on July 14, 1907.

Politically, Mr. Kloster is a Democrat. He has taken an active interest in public affairs for many years and has served as township clerk and trustee, also as school director. He is at present secretary of the school board, also overseer in the Fredonia Grange. He belongs to the Danish Lutheran church of Fredonia township.

HENRY KAMMEIER.

Henry Kammeier, one of Liberty township's substantial and progressive farmers, is a native of Germany, but has been a resident of this country since 1882. He was born in Prussia on February 13, 1853, son of Frederick and Elizabeth Kammeier, natives of that same country, who spent all their lives there. Frederick Kammeier served in the German army and he and his wife were the parents of five children, of whom Henry, the second in order of birth, was the only one who came to this country, the others being Liza, Frederick, Sophia and Wilhelmina.

Reared on a farm in his native land, Henry Kammeier received his schooling there and remained at home until 1882, when he came to the United States, proceeding directly to Iowa and settling in Grundy county, where he began working as a farm laborer and was thus engaged until his marriage in 1888, when he rented a farm there and made his home in that county until 1893, when he came over into Plymouth county and bought a farm of two hundred acres in sections 9 and 10 of Liberty township, where he established his home. Upon taking possession of the place Mr. Kammeier found little improvements on it save a small house and the task of developing the farm

was no small one, but he and his wife faced the same cheerfully, for at last they felt that they had a home of their own and something to work for. Five years later they erected a comfortable two-story frame house and also improved the place further by building a large new barn, planting an orchard and otherwise bringing the place up to standard. There the Kammeiers lived for eighteen years, or until February, 1911, when Mr. Kammeier bought a farm of one hundred and sixty acres, the northeast quarter of section 10 in that same township, and moved onto the same, he and his family ever since having made their home there. He has a good house, a commodious barn and adequate farm buildings, the place being otherwise well improved, and is doing well at his general farming and stock raising. Though now the owner of three hundred and sixty acres, Mr. Kammeier is now farming only the quarter section on which he is living, renting out the other farm of two hundred acres. He has a herd of thirty-five or forty Shorthorn cattle and raises from fifty to sixty hogs. He is an independent voter and has not been an aspirant for public office.

In 1888, while living in Grundy county, Henry Kammeier was united in marriage to Wilhelmina Kroemer, who also was born in Prussia, a daughter of Christian and Wilhelmina Kroemer, natives of that same country, whose last days were spent in this county. Christian Kroemer was a blacksmith by trade. He served in the German army during the war with Denmark and during the war with Austria, and during the Franco-Prussian War served as a member of the Home Guards. In 1890 he came to the United States and settled in Grundy county, this state, where he remained until 1893, when he came over to Plymouth county with Mr. Kammeier and bought an unimproved farm of one hundred and sixty acres in section 16 of Liberty township, which he improved, later buying an additional quarter section, and there he farmed until 1913, when he retired and moved to Merrill, where his death occurred on December 12, 1915, he then being seventy-eight years of age. His widow survived him but little more than three months, her death occurring in March, 1916, she then being seventy-five years of age. They were the parents of eight children, of whom Mrs. Kammeier was the first-born, the others being as follow: Christian, a farmer of Liberty township, this county; Frederick, who is farming in Texas; William, who is farming in Grundy county, this state; Conrad, a Washington township farmer; Louisa, who is living in Texas; Ernest, who is farming in Liberty township, and the latter's twin brother, Charles, deceased.

To Henry and Wilhelmina (Kroemer) Kammeier eleven children have been born, namely: Frederick, who is a banker at Woden, in Hancock

county, this state; Mary, who married Ernest Schmidt, a farmer of Liberty township, and has one child, a daughter, Lucile; Louisa, who married F. Trometer, who is renting Mr. Kammeier's other farm, and has three children, Irene, Edna and Verna, and Minnie, who married Gustav Knorr, a Plymouth county farmer and has one child, a son, William. The children at home are Henry, Anna Emma, Lena, Elsie, Martha, Willie and Emma, who died in 1915. The Kammeiers are members of the German Lutheran church and faithful attendants upon the services of the same.

JOHN ALLISON.

John Allison, proprietor of "Mt. Pleasant Farm" in America township and one of the most progressive farmers in Plymouth county, is a native of England, born on September 29, 1860, but has been a resident of this county since he was eight years of age, when he came here with an aunt, who settled in America township. He received a limited schooling in the primitive schools of this county and when he grew to manhood began working on a farm for his cousin. He then rented a farm and began farming on his own account, several years later buying a farm of one hundred and twenty acres in section 1 of America township. On that place he erected a small house and a straw barn and there made his home until 1902, when he sold that place and bought his present fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres, known as "Mt. Pleasant Farm," in that same township, and there has ever since made his home, he and his family being very comfortably and very pleasantly situated. He has a fine house and his farm buildings are in proper keeping with the same, his farm plant revealing in every detail the progressive notions of the proprietor. Mr. Allison is a Republican and has ever given his thoughtful attention to local political affairs, but has not been a seeker after public office.

In 1885 John Allison was united in marriage to Anna Smithurst, a daughter of Joseph Smithurst and wife, and to that union four children were born, three of whom are still living, John, who married Blanche Bogenreith; Clara, who married Henry Remer, and Sarah, who married William Hodgson. Following the death of the mother of these children, Mr. Allison married Eleanor Smithurst and to this union three children have been born, Loretta, Oscar and Arthur. The Allisons are members of the Methodist Episcopal church at Le Mars and take a warm interest in the various bene-

ficences of the same, as well as in the general social activities of the community in which they live and have ever been helpful factors in the promotion of such movements as are designed to advance the common welfare thereabout. Mr. Allison is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and has for years taken a warm interest in the affairs of that organization.

AUGUST HELM.

August Helm, one of Liberty township's progressive young farmers, is a native son of Plymouth county and has lived here all his life. He was born on the old homestead farm where he is now living, March 26, 1879, son of Fred and Lena Helm, pioneers of this county, the latter of whom is still living, now making her home in Sioux City, where her husband spent his last days.

Fred Helm was born in Germany and grew to manhood there on a farm. He served three years in the army and in 1865 came to the United States, proceeding to Wisconsin, where he remained a short time and then went to Chicago, but a short time later, in 1866, came to Iowa and settled in Plymouth county, one of the earliest pioneers of this county. Upon coming to this county Fred Helm took a homestead claim on eighty acres in section 36 of Liberty township and built a dug-out for a home. While proving up his claim he worked a part of the time in Sioux City and presently acquired a half interest in a team of oxen, in partnership with Charles Erhardt, the two trading their labors for a time. The first crop of corn Fred Helm raised he hauled to Sioux City, but there was no market for it and he was compelled to give it away, rather than haul it back home. Not long after settling here Mr. Helm married Lena Paffehen, who had come here to visit her sister, and after his marriage established his home on his homestead tract and there remained until his retirement from the farm and removal in 1906 to Sioux City. He died on the farm on July 22, 1912, at the age of eighty-two years. During his long residence in this county, Fred Helm came to be recognized as one of the most substantial pioneers of the county. He added to his land holdings until he was the owner of seven hundred and twenty acres and had one of the best-kept places in Liberty township. To him and his wife ten children were born, namely: Fred, who died at the age of ten years; Ida, who married Peter Hendricks, a carpenter at Le Mars; August, the subject of this biographical sketch; John,

who is assisting in the management of the home farm; Otto, a Liberty township farmer; Frank, who is assisting in the management of the home farm; Mrs. Lena McAllister, now living in North Dakota; Clara, who married E. Anderson, of Galva, this state; Frieda, who married Henry Larson, of Sioux City and one who died in infancy.

August Helm was reared on the homestead farm and has lived there all his life. He received his schooling in the local schools and from the days of his boyhood was a valued assistant to his father and brothers in the labors of developing and improving the home place. When their father retired from the farm in 1906, he turned the entire farm of seven hundred and twenty acres to his sons, August, John and Frank, who have been operating it since then and have done very well. They pay considerable attention to the raising of live stock, having a herd of from one hundred to one hundred and fifty Shorthorn cattle and as many Poland China hogs, and keep their stock up to high grade, long having been recognized as among the most progressive farmers in that part of the county.

On August 9, 1916, August Helm was united in marriage to Mary May Husted, a daughter of Albert and Martha Husted, of Liberty township. Mrs. Helm is a member of the United Brethren church and Mr. Husted is an attendant on the services of the same. He is a Republican, but has not been a seeker after public office. The Helms have a very pleasant home and take a proper part in promoting all agencies having to do with the advancement of the common welfare of the community in which they live.

ARTHUR DETLOFF.

Arthur Detloff, a well-known farmer of Elgin township, was born on a farm in section 1 of that township on July 19, 1894, son of Henry and Pauline (Pech) Detloff, prominent residents of that community, further reference to whom is made elsewhere in this volume. Reared on the home farm in Elgin township, Arthur Detloff received his early schooling in the district school in the neighborhood of his home and supplemented the same by a course in the high school at Le Mars. He began farming with his brother, Henry, and was thus engaged until after his marriage in 1916, when he started farming on his own account and is now farming two hundred and forty acres in Elgin township. In addition to his general farming, Mr. Detloff is feeding about four carloads of cattle annually and one hundred to two

hundred hogs and is giving close attention to the live-stock phase of his farming operations.

Mr. and Mrs. Detloff have a very pleasant home and give proper attention to the general social activities of the community in which they live. Mr. Detloff is a Republican and takes a good citizen's interest in the civic affairs of the county.

FRANK HOESE.

Frank Hoese, president of the Bank of Merrill, president of the Security Bank of Hinton, elevator man and reputed to be the most extensive land-owner and stockman in Plymouth county, is a native of Nebraska, born on a pioneer farm in the neighborhood of Ponca, in Dixon county, that state, son of William and Henrietta (Bandt) Hoese, natives of Germany, who came to this country shortly after their marriage, locating in Nebraska, whence they came to this county and here spent the remainder of their lives, honored and useful pioneer citizens.

William Hoese was trained as a miller in his native land and upon coming to Plymouth county established on the banks of Floyd river, at the point where is now situated the flourishing village of Hinton, the first flour-mill in northwestern Iowa. In 1856 William Hoese and his wife came to the United States and shortly after their arrival proceeded west, driving from the railway terminal, by ox-team, into Dixon county, Nebraska, where they established their first home in the new country. That was before the lands there had been opened by the government for settlement, and William Hoese took a "squatter's claim" to a tract of land in the vicinity of where later sprang up the town of Ponca, the county seat of Dixon county. He put up a log cabin there, the first settler in that county, broke the sod and entered upon the life of a pioneer settler on the frontier of the great west. There he made his home for eleven years, at the end of which time he sold to advantage the excellent farm he had developed, and, seeking again the pioneer conditions which had prompted his original settlement in a new country, came on over into Iowa and "pitched his tent" in Plymouth county, locating on the banks of the Floyd, at the spot where the village of Hinton now stands, and there he erected a flour-mill, said to have been the first flour-mill in northwestern Iowa. Associated with him in this enterprise was his brother, Frank Hoese, and the mill quickly achieved a wide reputation throughout this whole region as the Hoese Brothers' mill. The mill was



MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM HOESE



FRANK HOESE

operated by water-power and had a capacity of about fifty barrels a day. In addition to the large amount of custom milling the Hoese Brothers were called upon to do, they also for years had a contract with the government to grind flour for the Indians. Five years after establishing the mill on the Floyd, William Hoese sold his interest in the mill and bought a tract of one hundred and sixty acres in section 15 of Plymouth township and there established his permanent home, spending there the rest of his life, one of the most substantial farmers in the county. He suffered, in common with all the other pioneers of this county, during the time of the grasshopper visitations in the middle seventies, but he held out against all adversity and presently prospered largely, becoming the owner of five hundred and sixty acres of land. Few men in Plymouth county had a wider acquaintance than William Hoese and he took a quite active part in the days of the formation of a proper social order hereabout, his influence being exerted for good in many ways. For many years he served his township as justice of the peace and likewise performed admirable service as a school director in the early days. He and his wife lived many years on their pioneer farm in Plymouth township, helpful factors in the development of all proper interests in that neighborhood, and both died in the same year, Mrs. Hoese dying in April, 1893, and Mr. Hoese's death occurring in the following August. They were the parents of ten children, four of whom are still living, those besides the subject of this sketch being Louise, Clara and William.

Frank Hoese was but a child when he came to this county from Nebraska with his parents and he received his schooling in the primitive, pioneer schools of Plymouth township. From boyhood he was a valued assistant to his father in the labors of developing and improving the home farm and continued thus until his father's death. He then took up the work of the farm where his father had left off and has continued developing and enlarging his extensive interests until now he is the owner of more than twenty-five hundred acres of valuable land in this county and annually ships about one thousand head of cattle and twelve hundred head of hogs, long having been recognized as one of the leading farmers and stockmen in this part of the state. He also has developed an extensive dairy interest and at present has about one hundred and twenty-five head of milch cows. Mr. Hoese's farms, to the general management of which he gives his personal attention, are operated according to modern methods of agriculture and there is perhaps no more up-to-date farm plant in northwestern Iowa than is his.

In addition to his extensive farming and live-stock interests, Mr. Hoese

has large interests in other directions and is accounted one of the most influential factors in the financial life of Plymouth and surrounding counties. In 1901 he was elected president of the Bank of Merrill, a private institution at Merrill, and has ever since occupied that position. Mr. Hoese is also president of the Security Bank of Hinton, at Hinton, owns and operates two grain elevators in this county and is connected with the Leopold Todd Grain Company, of Omaha, giving to all these concerns his close personal attention. Regarding Mr. Hoese's banks, it seems but fair to state that they enjoy the reputation of always being willing to aid in proper development work and that in times of financial stress, when other banks not only would be declining to make new loans, but would be calling in such loans as the terms of the same would admit, Mr. Hoese never rejected a worthy request for accommodation. In his relations with his farm tenants and with all who were associated with him in whatever capacity in his various enterprises, Mr. Hoese ever has maintained the same helpful and accommodating attitude and it is said of him that he ever has been willing to give a poor boy a start along a self-supporting path. Mr. Hoese is a Republican and has ever given his thoughtful attention to local civic affairs, but has never been a seeker after public office. He is a member of the local lodge of the Knights of Pythias and takes a warm interest in the affairs of that organization. It is not too much to say, though the expression may savor somewhat of personalities, that Mr. Hoese is regarded throughout the county and throughout this whole region as a veritable "prince of good fellows."

NICOLAI MOLZEN.

Nicolai Molzen, one of Plymouth county's best-known and most progressive farmers, proprietor of a fine and well-improved farm in Johnson township, is a native of Germany, but has been a resident of this state since he was seventeen years of age and of Plymouth county since 1883, and may therefore very properly be looked upon as one of the pioneers of the county. He was born on December 1, 1854, son of Asmus and Maria (Hansen) Molzen, both natives of Germany, born in Schleswig-Holstein.

Asmus Molzen was the owner of a small tract of land about ten acres, in his native land and was also a skilled worker in wood, stone and iron, a fine mechanic, who maintained a machine shop in which he made various kinds of tools and implements. During the war between Denmark and Germany, which resulted in the loss to the former of Schleswig-Holstein, he was

drafted into the service of his country and served throughout that war. In 1872 he came to America with his family and proceeded on out to Iowa, settling in Benton county, where he rented a farm and also set up a machine shop in which he did general blacksmithing and repair work. He also bought a threshing outfit and operated it with the assistance of his sons throughout that neighborhood, and there he made his home until the fall of 1883, when he moved over to Plymouth county and settled in Johnson township, where he spent the rest of his life. It was his son, Nicolai, who induced Asmus Molzen to come to this county. The former had been prospecting a bit and in 1881 persuaded his father to come over here and buy land and the latter investigated and bought a tract of two hundred and forty acres in section 3 of Johnson township and eighty acres in section 33 of Preston township, buying in the name of Asmus Molzen & Son. In the spring of 1883 he hired some of that land plowed and in the fall of that year sent his sons, Christ and Nicolai, the latter of whom had just been married, over here to build a house, both being skilled carpenters and competent mechanics. While erecting the house the brothers built a small workshop and it was in the latter that Nicolai Molzen and his bride began their housekeeping, the fine, two-story residence that was being prepared for the reception of the family not being completed until the following January. Asmus Molzen then brought out the rest of his family, together with his live stock and farm implements, including the threshing-machine, and there established his home. In the spring the Molzens put out about one hundred acres of wheat, but owing to the wet season the crop was almost an entire failure, save on the ground that had been broken the spring before. For some time the family all farmed together and then a division was made, provision being made for all the children, the father, however, maintaining his home in the original house, the place now owned by J. G. Miller, until his death.

Asmus Molzen was three times married. His first wife died in Germany, leaving five children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the first-born, the others being as follow: Sophia, who married Fred Garbers, a farmer, of Benton county, this state; Peter, who is farming in Preston township, this county; Christ, who is farming in Johnson township, and Fritz, who is farming in Benton county. Asmus Molzen's second wife died in Benton county, leaving one child, a daughter, Mary, who married Will Maloney. Mr. Molzen then married the widow of his brother and she survived him some years. There were no children by this last marriage.

Nicolai Molzen was about seventeen years old when he came with his father to this country and after locating in Benton county he continued to be

a valuable assistant to his father in the latter's machine shop, for from the days of his early boyhood he had been developing a fine mechanical skill. His boyhood had been spent in a community of mechanics and by visiting shops of various kinds he had picked up a very comprehensive knowledge of general mechanics. For some time after coming to this county, as the eldest son, he was a partner of his father in the family's farming operations and upon the eventual division of the property he came into possession of a farm of eighty acres, on which he built a new house and in the fall of 1884 moved into the same. On March 4 of the next year his barn was struck by lightning and destroyed by fire, the loss, which was but lightly insured, including four horses, harness, hay, oats, corn and farm implements. Mr. Molzen lost no time in erecting a new barn and on June 14 of that same year a tornado completely destroyed the second structure, but as he carried tornado insurance the loss was not so great as on the former occasion. Mr. Molzen erected a third barn that year and has gradually added to the extent and value of his farm buildings until he has one of the best farm plants in the county. In 1901 he erected a fine, new modern residence and his farm buildings are in keeping with the same. These include a modern grain elevator and a well-equipped machine shop, for Mr. Molzen has ever continued his interest in mechanics, and with his layout of lathes and other equipment he is able to make or repair pretty much all the implements and tools that enter into his farm work. His shop is operated by a ten-horse-power gasoline engine and a line shaft extending from the shop enables him to operate his threshing-machine, feed-mills and the like. Mr. Molzen also has a plant for concrete-block work and nearly all his fences are equipped with concrete posts. He has a concrete feed yard for his hogs and in other ways he finds the concrete mixer a handy thing about the farm.

In 1883 Nicolai Molzen was united in marriage to Margaretha Kallsen. Having no children of their own, Mr. and Mrs. Molzen early adopted two children, twins, John and Mary, the former of whom is now a valued assistant in the labors of the home farm and the latter of whom married Henry Schwiesow, a farmer, of Washington township, this county and has three children, Nick, and Katie and Margaret, twins. The Molzens are members of the German Lutheran church and take a warm interest in the various beneficences of the same, as well as in the general social activities of the community in which they live. Mr. Molzen helped to build the German Lutheran church in Preston township and is a member of the official board of the church. He takes an active interest in community affairs and is one of the strongest "boosters" in behalf of better roads in that part of the county.

BARTH MILLER.

Barth Miller, one of Plymouth county's best-known and most substantial farmers, proprietor of a fine farm in Johnson township, for years trustee of that township and in other ways actively identified with the general public life of the community, is a native of the Republic of Switzerland, but has been a resident of this county since he was five years of age and has consequently "grown up" with that section of the county in which he makes his home and where he has lived ever since coming here. He was born on March 19, 1877, son of Abraham and Christina (Kasper) Miller, natives of Switzerland, who came to the United States with their family in 1882 and settled on a homestead farm in Johnson township, this county, where they spent the remainder of their lives. In the biographical sketch relating to J. G. Miller, county supervisor, elder brother of the subject of this sketch, presented elsewhere in this volume, there is set out a comprehensive history of the Miller family in this county, to which the attention of the reader is respectfully invited in this connection.

Barth Miller was but five years of age when his parents came to this country, settling in Plymouth county, and his schooling was received in the district school in the neighborhood of the family home in Johnson township. From early boyhood he was an able assistant in the labors of developing and improving the home place and after his elder brother, J. G. Miller, left the place to start out on his own account, he became manager of his father's affairs and so continued until the elder Miller's death in 1915. After his marriage in 1903 Mr. Miller rented the farm from his father, the latter's advanced years then requiring his retirement from the active management of the farm, and continued to make his home on the old home place, where he is still living. He presently enlarged his operations by buying a farm of eighty acres in section 33 of Preston township, farming that as well as his father's place, and not long before his father's death bought from the latter two hundred acres of the old home farm, also bought an additional eighty from Mrs. Jeffers, adjoining his other eighty in Preston township, and is now the owner of three hundred and sixty acres, all of which he is profitably cultivating. In addition to his general farming Mr. Miller keeps a herd of about one hundred Hereford cattle, of which about twenty-five or thirty head are registered, headed by a registered sire and keeps from one hundred and fifty to two hundred head of hogs, while seventeen or eighteen horses are required to carry on his farming operations. The farm buildings are con-

structed along modern lines and besides the barn for his horses, a structure thirty-six by forty-four feet, he has a fifty-six by eighty-foot cattle barn, a hog house, with a concrete feed lot, stock scales and a water tank elevated so as to provide water service for the house and farm buildings, a wind-mill keeping the tank filled. Mr. Miller is the keeper of "Pete de None 3953", a fine Belgian stallion, which weighs twenty-three hundred pounds, and which is owned by Preston Township Horse Company. Mr. Miller is a Republican and is now serving as trustee of Johnson township, a position he has held continuously for the past twelve or fourteen years. He also has been a member of the school board for the past seven years and in other ways has contributed of his time and his energies to the public service, ever helpful in promoting all worthy movements in his neighborhood.

On January 28, 1903, Barth Miller was united in marriage to Clara Kallsen and to this union five children have been born, Elma, Leonard, Emma, Christina and Mildred. Mr. and Mrs. Miller attend the German Lutheran church and are interested in church work, as well as in the social activities of the community in which they live. Mr. Miller is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and of the Fraternal Order of Eagles and in the affairs of both of these organizations takes a warm interest.

GERHARD H. GROETKEN.

Gerhard H. Groetken, one of America township's most substantial farmers, has lived in Plymouth county since the days of his infancy and may therefore very properly be regarded as one of the pioneers of the county, for he has seen it develop from conditions with which the pioneers had to contend, to its present state of material stability. He was born on a pioneer farm in Jackson county, this state, August 30, 1875, son of Herman and Catherine (Knoll) Groetken, the former a native of Germany and the latter of Iowa, who became pioneers of Plymouth county and here spent their last days, honored and influential residents of the community in which they lived.

Herman Groetken came to this country from his native Germany in the days of his young manhood and proceeded on out to Iowa, settling in Jackson county, where he presently married Catherine Knoll, who was born in that county, daughter of one of the earliest settlers there, and there he remained until 1876, when he and his family came over into Plymouth county and settled on a farm in section 4 of America township, where the family

home became established. Upon coming to this county Herman Groetken bought a tract of two hundred acres in America township and later bought a quarter of a section in Elgin township, both of which places he improved and brought up to a high standard of cultivation, soon becoming recognized as one of the substantial citizens of that community. In his political faith Mr. Groetken was a Democrat and took an earnest interest in local civic affairs, but was not included in the office-seeking class. He and his wife were members of the Catholic church and their children were reared in that faith. There were ten of these children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the fourth in order of birth, the others being as follow: John, who is now a resident of the state of Oklahoma; Mary, now deceased, who was the wife of Henry Kemp; Herman, a biographical sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this volume; Catherine, who married Benjamin Ernsterhoff, a farmer of America township; Joseph, who is the proprietor of a pump factory at Aurora, Illinois; Elizabeth, deceased; Susie, who married William Sauter, of Fonda, this state; Josephine, now deceased, who was the wife of Peter Marx, and Henry, a well-known farmer of Elgin township, this county. The mother of these children died in October, 1893, and the father survived until April 12, 1914.

Gerhard H. Groetken was but an infant in arms when his parents came to Plymouth county from Jackson county and he grew to manhood on the home farm in America township, where he ever since has made his home, now the owner of two hundred acres of the old home place. He received his schooling in the public and parochial schools and from the days of his boyhood was a valued assistant to his father and his brothers in the labors of developing the home farm and the other lands acquired by the elder Groetken. In addition to his general farming, Mr. Groetken has given considerable attention to the raising of high-grade live stock and has a fine herd of Shorthorn cattle, a likely bunch of Duroc-Jersey hogs and an excellent stable of draft horses. He has managed his farming operations well and he and his family are very comfortably situated.

In April, 1903, Gerhard H. Groetken was united in marriage to Elizabeth Heissel, daughter of Fidel and Barbara Heissel, further mention of whom, together with a history of the Heissel family in this county, is made elsewhere in this volume, and to this union six children have been born, William, Cecelia, Helen, Gerhard, Raymond and Leo. Mr. and Mrs. Groetken are members of St. Joseph's Catholic church at Le Mars and give proper attention to parish affairs. Mr. Groetken is a Democrat and takes a good citizen's interest in local political affairs.

G. W. ZIMMERMAN.

G. W. Zimmerman, one of the substantial and progressive farmers of Plymouth township, is a native of Maryland, but has been a resident of this county since he was eight years of age. He was born in the city of Baltimore, July 6, 1859, son of the Rev. John J. and Theresa (Merriman) Zimmerman, natives of Germany, whose last days were spent in this county.

The Rev. John J. Zimmerman, who was the pastor of the first congregation of the Evangelical church established in Plymouth county, received a good education in his native Fatherland and also learned the trade of tailor. He came to this country as a young man and located at Baltimore, where he worked as a tailor and also became well known as a preacher of the Evangelical faith. There he married Theresa Merriman, who also was born in Germany, and continued to make his home in Baltimore until 1867, in which year he came with his family to Iowa and settled at the then ambitious hamlet of Melburn, the first county seat of Plymouth county, where he became engaged as the pastor of the Evangelical church and also bought a farm. He arrived there in July, 1867, and his death occurred in the following spring, in March, 1868. He and his wife were the parents of six children, of whom four are still living, those besides the subject of this sketch being Frank, William and Noah.

G. W. Zimmerman, as noted above, was but eight years of age when his parents came of this county and he grew to manhood on the home farm in Plymouth township, a valued assistant to his widowed mother and his brothers in the labors of improving and developing the home farm. He received his schooling in the local schools and remained at home until after his marriage in 1881, when he moved to Le Mars, where he made his home for six years, at the end of which time he traded his home in that city for the farm of one hundred and twenty acres in Plymouth county, where he is now living, and there has made his home ever since, he and his family being very comfortably situated. Mr. Zimmerman has done well in his farming and stock-raising operations and has increased his farm by the purchase of adjoining land and is now the owner of a well-kept place of two hundred acres. Of late years he has been living practically retired from the active labors of the farm and is in a position to take things somewhat easier than was his wont during the earlier days of his farming. He has expended about six thousand dollars in the improvement of his place and has a very pleasant home. Mr. Zimmerman is a Democrat and takes a good citizen's interest in local civic affairs, but has not been a seeker after public office.

In 1881 G. W. Zimmerman was united in marriage to Louisa Berner, daughter of Gottlieb Berner and wife, pioneers of Plymouth county, and to this union seven children have been born, five of whom are still living, namely: Walter, who married Anna Lippke and has three children, Lois, Kenneth and Roy; Frank, who married Ina Donlin, who died leaving one child, a daughter, Doris; Arthur, who married Gene Cobb, and Helen, who married Irvin Brandstetter, and Tilda, at home. The Zimmermans are members of the United Evangelical church and take an earnest interest in the affairs of the same, as well as in the general social activities of the community in which they live.

HERMAN MANDELKOW.

Herman Mandelkow, one of Elgin township's best-known and most progressive farmers, was born in the province of Pommern, in Prussia, April 7, 1873, and was about three years of age when his parents, William Mandelkow and wife, came to this country with their family and after a short residence at Bloomington, Illinois, came to Iowa and located at Le Mars. William Mandelkow was a carpenter and for some time after locating at Le Mars followed his trade, but presently moved onto a farm in Grant township and later bought six hundred and forty acres in section 8, Elgin township, and became one of Plymouth county's most substantial farmers and landowners. When the townsite of Struble was projected he sold to the promoters of the project forty acres of his farm and the village of Struble grew up on that tract. William Mandelkow retired from farming some years before his death in 1904 and his last days were spent in the village of Struble, his death occurring in his own home.

William Mandelkow and his wife were the parents of four children, those besides Mrs. Wilde and the subject of this sketch being William F., a former business man of Struble, now living on his farm in the vicinity of that village, and John, also a substantial farmer of Elgin township, further mention of both of whom is made elsewhere in this volume.

Herman Mandelkow was but three years of age when his parents came to this country and he grew to manhood on the home farm in Plymouth county, receiving his schooling in the district schools in the neighborhood of his home. He remained on the home farm, assisting his father and his brothers in the improvement and development of the same until he was twenty-three years of age, when he rented a tract of land from his father

and began farming on his own account, being thus engaged for five years, at the end of which time he bought the farm of two hundred acres on which he now lives in that same township and has ever since made his home there. Besides his home farm Mr. Mandelkow is the owner of a farm of eighty acres in Canada and town property in Struble. In addition to his general farming he gives considerable attention to the raising of live stock, feeding about sixty head of hogs annually, and is also breeding fine Percheron and Coach horses, now having about thirty head on the place. Mr. Mandelkow is a Republican and has served the public in the capacity of director of his local school district.

In 1897 Herman Mandelkow was united in marriage to Lena Miehke and to this union five children have been born, Herman (deceased), Emil, Clarence (deceased), Edward (deceased), and Alice. The Mandelkows have a very pleasant home and take a proper interest in the general social affairs of the community in which they live.

ALBERT LUBBEN.

Albert Lubben, a well-known and well-to-do farmer of Grant township and former trustee of that township, is a native of Germany, but has been a resident of this country since 1881. He was born in Osfriesland, April 3, 1864, son of Henry and Gretha Lubben, the former of whom was a farmer and apiarist and both of whom spent all their lives in their native country. They were the parents of eight children, three of whom came to this country, but of these the subject of this sketch and his brother, Philip, are the only ones residing in this county.

Upon completing his schooling in his native land, Albert Lubben became a shoemaker and followed that trade for three years, or until 1881, when he came to the United States, proceeding on out to Iowa and settling in Jones county, where he worked as a farm hand for three years, or until 1884, when he came to Plymouth county and was here engaged as a farm laborer for another three years, at the end of which time he and his brother, Philip Lubben, rented a farm and for seven years was engaged in operating the same. Albert Lubben then bought a quarter section of land in Grant township and after his marriage in 1894 established his home there and has ever since made that farm his place of residence. He has done well in his farming and stock raising and now is the owner of a well-kept farm of two

hundred and eighty acres and he and his family are very comfortably situated. In addition to his general farming, Mr. Lubben raises about one hundred and thirty-five hogs a year and also has some good cattle. He has expended about eight thousand dollars in improvements on his place and is accounted one of the progressive and wide-awake farmers of his neighborhood. Mr. Lubben is a Republican and has served the public in the capacities of township trustee and school director.

In 1894 Albert Lubben was united in marriage to Margaret Kleihauer, daughter of John and Mary Kleihauer, and to this union twelve children have been born, two of whom, Benjamin and Anna, are deceased, the others being Henry, Mary, Gretha, John, Philip, William, Albert, Meta, Nora and Rosetta. The eldest of these children, Henry Lubben, married Mary Ommen and has two children, Helen and Alice. The Lubbens are members of the German Lutheran church and Mr. Lubben was for some time a member of the board of trustees of the parochial school of that church.

EILERT BORCHERS.

Eilert Borchers, a well-to-do retired farmer of Grant township and who for years was trustee of that township, is a native of Germany, but has been a resident of Plymouth county since 1873 and is thus accounted among the pioneers of this county. He was born in the kingdom of Hanover, March 18, 1843, son of Henry and Margaret Borchers, also Hanoverians, who followed their son to this country in 1873 and located in Jones county this state, later moving to Sioux county, where they spent the remainder of their lives. The father died soon after he came here and the mother stayed with a son until he got married; after that she stayed with subject for about twelve years, when she died. Henry Borchers was a blacksmith in his native country, but upon coming to this country became a farmer. He bought a farm of two hundred acres in Sioux county and there established his home. He and his wife were the parents of two children, the subject of this sketch having a brother, Diederich.

Brought up to the blacksmith trade by his father, Eilert Borchers worked at that trade in his native land until 1870, in which year he came to the United States, remaining for a short time in Pennsylvania, where he was engaged working on a railroad, but presently went to the vicinity of Chicago, where for a short time he was engaged in farm labor. He then came to Iowa

and located in Jones county, where he married and where he remained until 1873, when he came to Plymouth county and bought a quarter of a section of land in Grant township, paying for the same six dollars an acre, and there he established his home and has ever since resided on that place, one of the best-established farmers in that part of the county. Upon taking possession of his raw prairie farm, Mr. Borchers put up a small shanty which served as a home until he could erect a more commodious residence. He also set out a grove and lost little time in bringing his place under cultivation. As he prospered he added to his land holdings and is now the owner of a fine farm of two hundred acres, which he rents out, having practically retired from the active labors of the farm some time ago. Mr. Borchers is a Republican and from the very beginning of his residence in Grant township has given his close attention to local civic affairs. For years he served as trustee of the township and in other ways has done his part in public affairs. He helped to organize the German Lutheran church in the neighborhood of his home and is a charter member of that organization, of which he was trustee for many years. Mr. Borchers' wife, who was Catherine Popken, daughter of Gerd and Gretke Popken, and whom he married in Jones county before coming to Plymouth county, died in 1901. There were no children born to that union.

H. JOHN MAMMEN.

H. John Mammen, a progressive and well-to-do farmer of Grant township, was born in Whiteside county, Illinois, February 13, 1874, son of C. S. Mammen, now living retired in the city of Le Mars, a biographical sketch of whom is presented elsewhere in this volume, and was educated in the common schools and in Western Union College at Le Mars. After his marriage in the spring of 1900 he and his wife located on the farm where they are now living, known as the Frerich place, in section 28 of Grant township, and are now the owners of a fine farm of two hundred and forty acres of valuable land. In addition to his general farming Mr. Mammen has given considerable attention to the raising of live stock and has done very well. He is a Republican and takes an interested part in local civic affairs, but has not been included in the office-seeking class.

It was on March 8, 1900, that H. John Mammen was united in marriage to Tena Kruse, who was born at Ackley, Grundy county, this state, a daughter of H. H. Kruse and wife, further mention of whom is made else-

where in this volume, and to this union three children have been born, Hannah, Clara and John. The Mammens are members of the Lutheran church and take a warm interest in the affairs of the same, Mr. Mammen having served as a director and as a member of the board of trustees of the church. They have a pleasant home and take a proper part in the general social activities of the community in which they live.

MATHEW T. MANSFIELD.

Mathew T. Mansfield, trustee of Perry township and one of the best-known and most substantial farmers of that township, is a native son of Iowa and has lived in this state all his life, a resident of Plymouth county since he was two years of age. He was born in the neighboring county of Woodbury on June 29, 1870, son of John and Nora (Nugent) Mansfield, both natives of Ireland, who became pioneers of Plymouth county, John Mansfield spending his last days here and his widow still living here, a resident of the village of Merrill, further reference to her and to the Mansfield family in this county being made in a biographical sketch presented elsewhere in this volume.

John Mansfield was about twelve years of age when he came to this country with his parents, the family settling in Jo Daviess county, Illinois, where he grew to manhood and where he married Nora Nugent, daughter of James Nugent and wife, pioneers of that county, who spent their last days there. In 1869 John Mansfield and family came to Iowa and settled at Sioux City, where they made their home for about three years, at the end of which time they moved up into Plymouth county, Mr. Mansfield homesteading a tract of eighty acres in Liberty township, where he established his home and where he spent the rest of his life. As he prospered in his farming operations he bought an adjoining quarter section of land and became recognized as one of the substantial farmers of that section. His widow is now living in the village of Merrill, where she is very comfortably situated. She is a member of the Catholic church, as was her husband, and their children were reared in that faith. There were nine of these children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the sixth in order of birth, the others being Alice, John, Hannah, Nora, Charles, Charlotte, Herbert and Monie.

Mathew T. Mansfield was reared on the home farm in Liberty township and received his schooling in the local schools. When twenty years of age he rented a tract of land and began farming on his own account, continu-

ing thus engaged as a tenant farmer for about eight years, at the end of which time, in 1901, he bought the farm on which he is now living in Perry township and there has made his home ever since. In addition to his general farming, Mr. Mansfield has given considerable attention to the raising of live stock and has done very well. He has made all the present substantial improvements on his place and he and his family are very pleasantly situated. Mr. Mansfield has long given close attention to local civic affairs and for the past six years has been serving the public as trustee of Perry township, a position he still holds. He also has held local school office and in other ways has contributed of his time and his services to the public.

Mr. Mansfield has been twice married. In 1896 he was united in marriage to Margaret Flynn, who died in 1907, leaving six children, Joseph, Lucile, Alice, John, Edward and Nona. Following the death of the mother of these children, Mr. Mansfield married Catherine Briody and to this union three children have been born, Margaret, Frances and James. The Mansfields are members of the Catholic church at Hinton and Mr. Mansfield was one of the organizers of that parish, in the affairs of which he has ever taken a warm interest.

PETER COLLING.

One of the well-known and successful farmers of Remsen township, Plymouth county, is Peter Colling, a native of Germany, where he was born on May 28, 1873, the son of J. P. and Catherine Colling.

J. P. and Catherine Colling were also natives of Germany and there they received their education, and there they grew to maturity and were married. As children, Mr. and Mrs. Colling were reared in a typical home, where they were taught the principles of economy and industry, two of the prominent factors in the lives of the average German. After their marriage, they continued to live in their native land until 1883. As a young man, Mr. Colling engaged in farming, and later in connection with his farm work he and his wife conducted a tavern, that became a most popular place. Many of their neighbors and friends had come to America, and were here obtaining homes for themselves and their families, and with the accounts from the United States, Mr. and Mrs. Colling determined to seek for themselves a home in the new land. In 1883 they arrived in this country and came direct to Iowa, and here they located in Remsen township, Plymouth county. For fifteen years, Mr. Colling rented land in the township, and was successful in his work of general farming and stock raising. He then purchased one hundred

and sixty acres of land in the township. This he developed and improved, and in time had one of the best farms, in the community. Here he engaged in general farming and stock raising, for a number of years, when he retired from the exacting duties of farm life and moved to Remsen.

J. P. and Catherine Colling always took much interest in the work of the Catholic church, and were active members of the St. Mary's church at Remsen. To them were born twelve children, eight of whom are now living, Lucy, Peter, Theresa, Barbara, Fred, William, Clara and Mary. The children were all educated in the public schools of Remsen township, and at the Catholic school at Le Mars. Mr. Colling always took much interest in local affairs, and was a most excellent citizen, and was held in the highest regard by all who knew him.

Peter Colling lived in his native land until he was ten years of age, when he came to the United States with his parents, and located in Remsen township, and here he grew to manhood. After completing his education he worked on his father's farm until he was twenty-eight years of age, at which time he was married, and for the next ten years he rented land and engaged in farming for himself. In 1910 he purchased one hundred and twenty acres of land in Remsen township, and here he has since made his home. He has remodeled the house and the outbuildings, and has given much attention to the development of the farm. On an average, he farms some forty acres of corn and twenty-five acres of small grain, the greater part of which he feeds on the place. He keeps from seventy to one hundred head of good hogs and a number of excellent cattle.

In February, 1901, Peter Colling was united in marriage to Mary Krantz, the daughter of Henry Krantz and wife, well-known residents of the county. To this union two children have been born, Viola and Cecelia, both of whom are at home and attending school. Mr. and Mrs. Colling are active members of the St. Mary's Catholic church at Remsen, and are prominent in the social and the religious life of the community, where they are held in the high regard by all. They are most hospitable, and it is one of their greatest pleasures to entertain their neighbors and friends.

Peter Colling began life in a modest way, and it has only been by hard work and constant attention to business that he has succeeded. Today he is recognized as one of the substantial and influential men of the township. He is identified with the Democratic party and takes an active interest in the civic life of his township. He is a member of the Foresters, and takes much interest in the success of the local society. He is a firm believer in public improvements and in the support of the best schools and the building of good roads.

WILLIAM FEENEY.

Of the many well-known and successful farmers of Elkhorn township, Plymouth county, is William Feeney, who was born in Decatur county, Indiana, on September 10, 1859, being the son of Michael and Margaret (Timney) Feeney.

The paternal grandparents of William Feeney were Charles Feeney and wife, who were natives of Ireland and there they received their education in the public schools, grew up and were married. It was there that their children were born and there they lived for a number of years after their marriage. They later came to the United States, and located in Butler county, Ohio, where they died. They were devout members of the Catholic church and were highly respected people.

Michael and Margaret (Timney) Finney were natives of Ireland and Pennsylvania, respectively. They later came to Butler county, Ohio, with their parents, and were there married. At the time Mr. Feeney came to that part of the country, settlement was not very advanced. Mr. and Mrs. Feeney later moved to Decatur county, Indiana, where they died. Mrs. Feeney, who was born on October 20, 1819, died on January 9, 1872, and Mr. Feeney, who was born in 1813, died in 1885. They were the parents of the following children: Charles, Daniel, John, Michael, Thomas, Jane, Elizabeth, James, Harry, William and Frank. The children are now all deceased, with the exceptions of Daniel, James, William and Frank. Mr. and Mrs. Feeney were active members of the Catholic church and took much interest in all church work and were prominent in the early social life of the communities in which they lived, and where they were held in the highest regard and esteem by all who knew them. Mr. Feeney always took an active interest in local affairs, and had much to do with civic life and the development of his home district.

William Feeney received his education in the common schools of Indiana and there grew to manhood. He remained a resident of the Hoosier state until 1881, when he went to Denver, Colorado, where he remained for six months, at the end of which time he took up his residence in the state of Iowa, where he has since resided. He located in Ida county, where he lived for six years, after which time he came to Plymouth county. Here he purchased two hundred and forty acres of land in section 36, Union township, at twenty dollars per acre. This was in 1887 and two years later he added another one hundred and sixty acres to his farm, and in 1905, he purchased



WILLIAM FEENEY AND FAMILY.

another one hundred and sixty acres, and in 1910 he purchased the farm of one hundred and sixty acres, in section 13, in Elkhorn township, where he has lived since 1912. He is still the owner of seven hundred and twenty acres, of most excellent land, all of which is under high cultivation and well improved. He built his splendid house and has made other valuable and extensive improvements. He is engaged in general farming and stock raising, and is particularly interested in Shorthorn cattle, some of which are registered. He also keeps a fine lot of mixed hogs, and is today recognized as one of the substantial and successful farmers and stockmen of the county.

On October 20, 1891, William Feeney was united in marriage to Martha Dugan, and to this union three children have been born, Pearl, William Clementine and Francis, all of whom are at home. Mr. and Mrs. Feeney are active members of the Catholic church and have reared their family in the faith of that denomination. Mr. Feeney is a trustee of the local church organization, and he and his wife have long been prominent in the social and the religious life of the community. They are a most hospitable people and are held in the highest regard by all. They have been most devoted to their children, and their home is one of the notable places of the township. The well-kept and substantial buildings, with the lawn and groves, present a most commanding view from over the broad stretch of prairie. The fine farm, situated but a mile northwest of Kingsley, makes a most ideal location for a country home. Mr. Feeney is identified with the Democratic party and takes an active interest in local affairs.

CHARLES BECK.

Farming and stock raising, in Plymouth county, has held the attention of many of the ambitious young men of that locality, among the number being Charles Beck, one of the progressive men of Plymouth township, who was born in Stanton township on April 5, 1879, and is the son of Joseph and Caroline (Icorst) Beck.

Joseph and Caroline Beck were born in Germany and there they received their education in the public schools, grew to maturity and were later married. Joseph Beck was born on August 17, 1838, and after some years of married life, he and his wife came to the United States in 1864. On their arrival in this country, they after a time located in Stanton township,

Plymouth county. Here they established a home on a farm, which they at once began to develop and improve. In addition to looking after his own interests, Mr. Beck took an active part in the general welfare of the township and the county. He had much to do with its growth and development and was recognized as one of the influential men of the district, and was held in the highest regard and esteem by all who knew him. Before coming to Plymouth county, Mr. and Mrs. Beck were for three years residents of Wisconsin and were for a time in Minnesota. After many years of active life in Stanton township, Mr. and Mrs. Beck, retired from the activities of farm life and moved to Le Mars, in 1909, and it was there that he died on May 21, 1912. Mrs. Beck is still living at her home in Le Mars.

Joseph and Caroline Beck were the parents of the following children, Emma, August, Minnie, Rose, Charles, Albert, Edith, Julius, Ed, Clara and Herman. Emma is the wife of Henry Ideker, of Lincoln township; August is engaged in general farming and stock raising in Stanton township; Minnie married Mike Konkle, a well-known farmer, of Stanton township; Rose is the wife of George Konkle and they live in Canada; Albert is a substantial farmer, of Stanton township; Edith is the widow of Henry Prust and lives at Le Mars; Julius is engaged in farming in Hungerford township, and Ed. and Herman are engaged in farming in Lincoln and Stanton townships, respectively; Clara is the wife of John Hoffman, of Lincoln township. Mr. and Mrs. Beck were reared in the faith of the German Lutheran church and, during their active life, took much interest in all church work.

Charles Beck received his education in the public schools of Plymouth county, and grew to manhood on the home farm, where as a lad he assisted his father with the work on the old homestead. He remained at home until the time of his marriage on October 1, 1907, to Amelia Mathwig, a native of Lincoln township, the daughter of Gottlieb and Augusta (Schroeder) Mathwig. Her parents were natives of Germany and there received their education in the public schools and there grew to maturity. They later married and came to the United States. Here they established a home on a farm in Lincoln township, and here the father died in 1888. The mother is still living at an advanced age. They were the parents of eight children, Lena, Edward, John, Emma, Rose, Minnie, Ida and Herman. Lena resides in Sioux township; Edward, John and Minnie are at home; Rose is the wife of Herbert Seles, of Hinton, Iowa; Ida is the wife of John Konkle, a well-known farmer, of Lincoln township, and Herman is a resident of Hungerford township.

Charles and Emma Beck are the parents of four children, Joie, Ray-

mond, Harold and Arthur, all of whom are at home. After their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Beck established their home in Lincoln township, where they remained until the spring of 1911, when they moved to their present farm in Plymouth township. Here they have a most excellent farm of one hundred and sixty acres, all of which is under high cultivation and well improved. Mr. Beck is engaged in general farming and stock raising, in which he has been most successful. He has many Shorthorn cattle and Hampshire hogs, together with some very fine draft horses. He has always taken an active interest in the civic life of the township and votes the independent ticket, but has never aspired to office. He and his wife are active members of the German Lutheran church and have long been prominent in church work, in Lincoln township.

THOMAS C. HARDIE.

Thomas C. Hardie, one of the well-known and successful farmers of Garfield township, Plymouth county, was born in Long Grove, Iowa, the son of David and Crawford (Robertson) Hardie.

John Robertson, the maternal grandfather of Thomas C. Hardie, was a native of Scotland and spent his life among the highlands of that picturesque country. As a young man he married Jennie Crawford, the daughter of Thomas Crawford and wife, who lived and died in their native land. After the death of her husband, Jennie (Crawford) Robertson came to the United States in 1844, and located at Long Grove, where she purchased government land, and made her home until the time of her death a number of years ago. The paternal grandparents of our subject, were David and Jeanet (Achen) Hardie, both of whom were natives of Scotland. The grandmother died in the land of Burns, and after her death the grandfather came to the United States and located for a time at Davenport and later made his home with his children.

David Hardie was born in Scotland on June 14, 1819. He received his education in the schools of that county and there resided until he was twenty-two years of age when he came to this country, to join a sister and brother at Long Grove, Iowa. There he purchased a farm, on which he resided for many years, after which he returned to Scotland in 1891, and there he died on July 14, 1913. David and Crawford Hardie were the parents of the following children: Jennie, now deceased; Janet, David, John, Thomas C. and Crawford, deceased.

Thomas C. Hardie received his education in the public schools of Long Grove and there grew to manhood on the home farm. As a young man he went to California and there he was married at Red Bluffs, on May 24, 1882, to Christine Duncan, and to this union eight children have been born as follow: Agnes, Margaret, Janet, Pearl, Florence, John, William, and Edna. Agnes is now the wife of Roscoe Preston, of this county; Margaret married Fred Steiner, of Cherokee, Iowa, and Florence is the wife of Philip Ross, of Storm Lake, Iowa.

After a residence of some years in Scott county, Iowa, Mr. and Mrs. Hardie came to Plymouth county in 1897 and located on the farm in section 24, Garfield township, which they had purchased in 1886. This farm has been placed under a high state of cultivation and excellent buildings have been erected by Mr. Hardie, and here he is successfully engaged in general farming and stock raising. He keeps a fine herd of Shorthorn cattle and Poland China hogs. In addition to his home farm, Mr. Hardie owns a section of land in Deaf Smith county, Texas, that he bought in 1906.

Mr. and Mrs. Hardie are members of the Christian church and Mr. Hardie is prominent in the order of the Modern Woodmen of America.

FRANK WETROSKY.

One of the successful farmers of the younger generation, and a respected citizen of Liberty township, Plymouth county, is Frank Wetrosky, who was born in Bohemia on September 27, 1873, the son of John and Anna Wetrosky, both of whom were born in that faraway country.

John and Anna Wetrosky received their education in their native land and there spent the early years of their lives, later being married. There they established their little home and continued to live until 1874, when they decided to seek a home for themselves and those dependent upon them in America. On their arrival in the United States, they at once came to Iowa, where they located in Lincoln township. As a young man, Mr. Wetrosky had learned the mason trade, and was an accomplished musician. For some time after coming to this county, he followed his trade, and was associated with the Sioux City band. He later purchased eighty acres of land in sections 3 and 4, Lincoln township, on which he built a small frame shanty, twelve by fourteen feet, and closed the cracks with clay. In this house the family lived until 1888. During the first few years on the farm he did much work at his

trade, but later devoted his time and attention to the interests of his farm. In 1888 he built the substantial frame house now on the place, in which he lived until the time of his death on February 15, 1912. The widow is still living in the old home. They were the parents of eight children, two of whom died in Bohemia; the living are, Mary, who is the widow of Julius Mathwig, lives in Liberty township. Julius Mathwig was born in Germany in 1850, and came to the United States with his parents, Gotleib and Minnie Mathwig, in 1866. The family located in Plymouth county and in 1881 Julius Mathwig was united in marriage to Mary Wetrosky, and to this union six children were born, Tillie, Otto, George, John, Frank and Anna, all of whom are living with the exception of John, who was drowned in 1908. Since the death of her husband on December 1, 1915, Mrs. Mathwig and her son have cared for the farm. Anna Wetrosky is the wife of J. J. Aalfs, a well-known auctioneer, of Akron, Iowa; Josie married Gustaf Long, a well-to-do farmer, of Stanton township; Joseph is a successful farmer in Lincoln township and is married to Mary Munsch; John married Ida Dahlmann, and is farming the old home place, the mother making her home with him.

Frank Wetrosky was twenty-seven weeks old when he came to the county with his parents and received his education in the schools of Lincoln township. He remained at home and assisted his father with the work on the farm until he was married. In February, 1895, Frank Wetrosky was united in marriage to Bertha Schulz, of Stanton township. After their marriage, they established their home on a farm in Plymouth township, where Mr. Wetrosky rented one hundred and sixty acres of land, for five years. He then purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in section 20, Liberty township, where he farmed for two years, when he sold the place, and bought one hundred and sixty acres in section 13, where he now lives. He first built a small house, which has since been remodeled and enlarged, until he now has one of the best two-story houses in the township. He built a good barn and other out-buildings, and has placed all the improvements now on the place.

Frank Wetrosky has met with much success in his work as a general farmer and stockman, and is today the owner of three hundred and twenty acres of excellent land, most of which is under high cultivation and well improved. He does the greater part of the farming himself, and looks after the care of fifty head of Shorthorn cattle and one hundred and fifty Poland China hogs. He raises much wheat, corn, oats and alfalfa, and is recognized as one of the substantial men of the township.

Mr. and Mrs. Wetrosky are members of the Lutheran church and take much interest in all church work. They are the parents of seven children, Arthur, Elmer, Walter, Gustav, Ella, Frank and Evelyn, all of whom are at home. Mr. Wetrosky has served his district as school director and has always taken an active interest in local affairs, and is a stockholder in the Merrill farmers elevator.

JACOB POECKES.

Jacob Poeckes, one of the well-known and successful farmers, of Remsen township, Plymouth county, was born on August 8, 1865, in Kehlen, Canton Cappellen, Grand Duchy of Luxemburg, the son of Peter Poeckes and Katherine (Powley) Poeckes.

Peter and Katherine (Powley) Poeckes were also natives of Luxemburg and there received their education, grew to maturity and were married. They continued to live in their native land and there they died, he in 1887, at the age of sixty-five years, and she in 1886 at the age of fifty-eight years. As a young man, Peter Poeckes learned the nailsmith business, and at that he worked until the time of his death. The family were active members of the Catholic church, and Mr. and Mrs. Poeckes took much interest in all church work. They were the parents of eight children. Jacob, Nick and Katherine came to America with them. Another is still at the old home in Luxemburg. Nick J. lives in Chicago and Kate resides at Le Mars, Iowa.

Jacob Poeckes received a common-school education in his native country and there grew to manhood, and as a lad learned the nailsmith trade with his father, with whom he worked until he was twenty-four years of age, at which time he came to America. On April 19, 1889, he sailed for the United States. On his arrival in this country, he came to South Dakota, where he located at Alexandria, and there he worked as a farm hand, for five years. He then decided to locate in Iowa, and here he settled in Plymouth county, where he worked as a farm hand for four years. On February 5, 1902, he was united in marriage to Julia Sonsma, the daughter of John and Mary Sonsma, natives of Workum, Nertherland, Holland. There the daughter, Julia, was born and educated and grew to womanhood. She remained there until she came to the United States with her parents in 1894. On their arrival in the United States, they located in Plymouth county, and here the father rented land and engaged in farming, until the time of his death on August 5, 1902. The widow is still living in the county, making her home

with her children. Mr. and Mrs. Sonsma were the parents of four children, John, Julia, Andrew and Bertha, all of whom are living in Remsen township.

Jacob and Julia Poeckes are the parents of four children, John Peter, born on June 24, 1903; Eugene, November 19, 1904; Marie Bertha, November 5, 1906, and Catherine Augusta, July 1, 1909. Mr. and Mrs. Poeckes are active members of the Catholic church at Remsen, where their two sons are now attending school.

After having rented land in the county for some years, Jacob Poeckes purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land, which he has developed and improved. He has by hard work and close application to business, become one of the substantial and successful men of the township. He came to the United States a poor man, and located among strangers and amid new conditions. His early life had been spent in the making of nails; and on locating in this country, he decided to be a farmer and a raiser of stock. He was determined to succeed and he applied himself to the work he had undertaken. He commenced at the bottom, and has risen to a position of respect and influence. His life has been an active one and he has accomplished much that is worthy of emulation. Mr. Poeckes is identified with the Democratic party, and has always taken an active interest in the affairs of his township, and has been interested in the improvement of the social, civic and moral conditions of the community, where he and his family are held in the highest regard and esteem.

JACOB PICK.

Jacob Pick, deceased, was one of the well-known and successful farmers of Remsen township, Plymouth county, and was born in Marot Duchy of Nassau, Germany, on October 12, 1866, being the son of Anton and Helen (Muhl) Pick.

Anton and Helen (Muhl) Pick were also natives of Germany, and there they were educated, grew to maturity and were married. They continued to reside in their native land until 1869, when they decided to come to America. On their arrival in this country, they came direct to Iowa, and here located in Dubuque, where they remained for two years, after which they came to Plymouth county, where they remained for some time. They later removed to Arcadia, Iowa, and there they died. As a young man, Anton Pick learned the mason trade, and this he made his life work. Mr. and Mrs. Pick were active members of the Catholic church and took much

interest in all the services of that denomination. They were the parents of the following children, Adam, Christ, Joseph, Mary, Kate, and Jacob. Adam resides in Alton, Iowa; Christ, in Brada, Iowa; Joseph, at Lismore, Minnesota; Mary, at Arcada, Iowa, and Kate, at Milford, Iowa.

Jacob Pick was the second child of the family and came to the United States when but three years of age with his parents. For a time they lived at New Vienna, Iowa, and then at Petersburg. Jacob received a common-school education, and as a young man worked as a farm hand. On February 4, 1890, he was united in marriage to Anna Willenburg, of Petersburg, Iowa. In 1893 they came to Plymouth county, where they obtained one hundred and sixty acres of land in Remsen township, and here the widow now lives with her family. Mr. Pick did much in the way of developing and improving the farm after he had assumed possession, and soon became one of the well-known and successful farmers and stockmen of the township. He was identified with the Democratic party, and was prominent in the councils of that organization and took much interest in local affairs. He was an active member of the St. Mary's Catholic church at Remsen, and was held in high esteem by all who knew him. Mr. and Mrs. Pick were the parents of ten children, nine of whom are now living, Catherine, Anthony, Anthony, Clara, Aloysious, Veronica, Arthur, Gregor, Alphonso and Myra. Catherine married Ben Wiederholt, a native of Dubuque county, and now one of the successful young farmers of Remsen township; they are the parents of two children, Vitus and Irmin. Anthony, the first born, died at the age of one year. The other of the children are at home with the mother. The children of the family were all educated in the excellent parochial Catholic school at Remsen. Mr. Pick continued to live on the farm until the time of his death on January 27, 1908. In addition to his membership in the Catholic church, he was a member of the Catholic Mutual Protective Association. During his residence in the county Mr. Pick made many warm friends, and his death was mourned by many.

When starting life Mr. and Mrs. Pick had but little financial support, but by hard work and excellent management, they became recognized as among the successful residents of the county. During their entire married life, Mrs. Pick bore her share of the burden and was a constant helper and adviser of her husband. Mrs. Pick was the daughter of Stephen and Catherine (Tanka) Willenburg, the father having been a native of Oldenburg, Germany, and the mother of Dubuque county, Iowa. The father received his education in the schools of Germany and there grew to manhood, and as a young man came to America. On his arrival in the United States, he

came direct to Iowa, and here he located in Dubuque county, where he met and married Catherine Tanka, in 1880. To this union the following children were born, Clem, John, Aloysious, Henry, Frances and Anna. Clem is a resident of New Hampton, Iowa; Aloysious and Henry are living in Remsen township; John lives in Albert Lee, Minnesota, and Frances is a nun and is known as Sister Myra.

Mr. and Mrs. Pick had much to do with the general development and growth of the township, as well as the county, and were much interested in the development of the schools and the social conditions of the community. They devoted much of their time to the interests of their family, and were always solicitous of the welfare of their children, as well as the condition of their neighbors and friends.

JOHN THIEL.

Among the well-known and successful farmers of Remsen township, Plymouth county, is John Thiel, who was born in Calumet county, Wisconsin, on September 29, 1863, being the son of Matthew and Kate Thiel.

Matthew and Kate Thiel were natives of Germany and there they received their education in the public schools and there they grew to maturity and were married. As a young man, Matthew Thiel engaged in farming and teaming and thus continued until he came to the United States. He and his wife continued to live in their native land until 1859, when they came to America. On their arrival in this country, they proceeded to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where they lived for four years. They later moved to Calumet county, that state, and there they remained until 1873, when they removed to Cherokee county, Iowa. Here Mr. Thiel obtained three hundred and sixty acres of land, which he developed and improved, and there he engaged in general farming and stock raising for many years. He later retired from the activities of farm life and moved to Alton, where he died, eight years later. Mr. and Mrs. Thiel were active members of the Catholic church and took much interest in all church work, and were prominent in the social life of the community. They were the parents of thirteen children, seven of whom are still living, John being the only one who lives in Plymouth county.

John Thiel received his education in the public schools of Wisconsin and in Cherokee county, Iowa, and grew to manhood on the home farm. After completing his education, he remained on the home farm, until he was nineteen years of age. For fourteen years he rented land and engaged in farm-

ing. He then purchased one hundred and thirty-two acres of land in Cherokee county, to which he added until he was the owner of two hundred and twenty acres in that county. This farm he developed, and later sold, and purchased one hundred and sixty acres near Cherokee, where he lived for eleven years, and then in 1906, he came to Plymouth county, where he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land, in section 3, Remsen township, three miles east of the city of Remsen. There he is engaged in general farming and stock raising, in which he is most successful. He cultivates some seventy acres of corn and fifty acres of small grain, each year, all of which he feeds on the place. He is a progressive farmer and is a firm believer in intensive farming and the most thorough cultivation, as well as the keeping of the best of stock.

In 1888 John Thiel was united in marriage to Mary Flier, and to this union sixteen children have been born, Anna, Kathryn, Frank, Leona, Matthew, Fred, Marie, Robert, Christophel, Alice, Alma, Erma, John, Urban, Helen and Dorothy. Anna is the wife of George Wermes and they are the parents of one child, Clarence; Kate married Peter Christoffel, and they are the parents of two children, Marie and Henry; Leona is the wife of Elmer Donner; Alma and Erma are twins. The family is a most interesting one, and all have received the advantages of a good common-school education, and have been confirmed in the Catholic church, in which their parents are active members. They are prominent in the social and the religious life of their communities and are held in the highest regard by all who know them.

Beginning life as a poor young man, John Thiel at first rented land for many years, until he could buy some for himself. By hard work and close application to business, he succeeded in his work. He is a man of sound judgment and much business acumen. He invested his savings in land and stock, and was not contented until he had one of the best farms in the county, and which he now has under a high state of cultivation and well improved. Today he is recognized as a substantial and successful man.

John Thiel has always taken an active interest in local affairs, and has advocated the highest class of public improvements. He is a firm believer in good roads and the best schools, and believes that in these much of the future greatness of the township depends. As supervisor of the roads of his district, he has done a great work, and much of the success of good road building in that section, has been due to his careful supervision and good judgment. He is an independent voter, and has had much to do with the civic life of the township as well as the county.

CHARLES WERLEY.

Among the well-known and successful farmers of Elgin township, Plymouth county, is Charles Werley, who was born in Whiteside county, Illinois, on February 14, 1878, the son of Mathias and Rose (Haberer) Werley.

Mathias and Rose Werley were born in the grand duchy of Baden, Germany, and there received their education, and were later married. Mr. Werley was born in October, 1849, and is the son of John and Rose Werley, who were natives of Germany and there lived their lives. John Werley was a small farmer and he and his wife were the parents of eight children, Mathias being the only one that came to the United States. He grew to manhood on the farm and at the age of nineteen, in 1868, he was married and he and his bride at once sailed for America. After landing in this country they at once came to Illinois, where they established their home at Sterling, and for some years Mr. Werley engaged in farming in that vicinity. In 1882 they left their home at Sterling and came to Iowa, where they purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in section 2, Elgin township, Plymouth county. This farm was developed and improved by Mr. Werley and was known as one of the ideal places in the township. Here he engaged in general farming and stock raising until a few years ago, when he located on his present farm of four hundred and eighty acres of excellent land in the township. Although he is practically retired from the activities of farm life, he still resides on the place, which is now managed by his sons. Mr. and Mrs. Werley, coming to the country as they did, alone and without financial resources, have won for themselves an honored and respected position in the community in which they have lived for so many years.

Mathias and Rose Werley are the parents of six children as follow: John, Henry, Charles, William, Mathias and Clara. Henry married Emma Siege and Clara is the wife of Gerhard Lang. Mr. and Mrs. Werley are and have been for many years active members of the German Lutheran church, and are prominent in the social as well as the religious welfare of the township.

Charles Werley was educated in the schools of Elgin township and assisted his father with the farm work until after he was married, when he rented a farm of two hundred acres on which he remained for one year, when he moved to a farm two miles east of Craig, where he lived for seven years. In 1910 he rented one hundred and sixty acres of his father, and on which he has placed all the improvements. Here he grows sixty acres of corn and

forty acres of small grain each year, and feeds one hundred head of hogs and some cattle, and as a general farmer and stockman he has met with much success.

On February 20, 1902, Charles Werley was united in marriage to Annie Franke, the daughter of Fred Franke and wife prominent and well-known residents of the county, and to this union, two children have been born, Lyle and Margaret. Mr. and Mrs. Werley are members of the St. John's Evangelical Lutheran church at Le Mars and take much interest in all church work. Politically, Mr. Werley is an independent Republican, and while he takes much interest in local affairs, he does not aspire to office. He believes in the most progressive government, and is a strong advocate of good roads and the best of schools.

ALVAH S. KNOWLTON.

Alvah S. Knowlton, one of the best known and prominent retired farmers of Fredonia township, Plymouth county, and one of the early pioneers of the county, was born near Rockland, Maine, on March 6, 1852, being the son of William G. and Nancy W. (Sweetser) Knowlton.

William G. and Nancy (Sweetser) Knowlton were natives of Maine, and there received their education in the public schools, grew to maturity and were married, and there they continued to live for some years. As a young man William G. Knowlton learned to be a ship carpenter, at which he was engaged until 1853. At that time he and his family removed to Port Huron, Michigan, where Mr. Knowlton later purchased a farm in Sanilac county, about twenty miles from Port Huron. Here he engaged in farming and also took up house carpentry. He continued to reside here until the time of his death, in 1865. After his death the widow and her five children removed to Keokuk county, Iowa, where they resided for two years, and then they located in Black Hawk county, where they remained three years, when they came to Plymouth county in 1870, and here she homesteaded eighty acres of the farm, where Alvah S. Knowlton, the son, now lives, in Fredonia township. Her brother had come to the farm, some time before, and had erected a small house for her and her family, and had broken some of the land. Here she made her home, until the time of her death on December 11, 1883. Mrs. Knowlton was an active member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and always took much interest in religious work. She and William G. Knowlton were the parents of five children, Alvah S., Helen A., Josephine, Roscoe and

Eugenia. Helen A., now deceased, was the wife of Wallace Winslow, of Le Mars; Josephine, deceased, was the wife of W. S. Freeman, of Le Mars; Roscoe H. married Annie Adams and they reside at Söldier, Idaho, where he is engaged in farming, and Eugenia L. became the wife of Horton Wilson, of Medical Lake, Washington.

Alvah S. Knowlton had but little opportunity to obtain an education, and he attended school but little. The greater part of his education, he has gained through his own efforts. He always made his home with his mother and was with her at the time of her death. On February 5, 1885, he was united in marriage to Helen A. Freame, of Albion, New York, the daughter of George and Lucina (Shirley) Freame. Mr. and Mrs. Freame were natives of London, England, and the state of Vermont, respectively. The father received his education in the schools of his native city and there grew to manhood. He continued to live there until he was twenty-one years of age, when he came to the United States, and located at Albion, New York, where he engaged in the grocery business, and continued in that business until the time of his death.

Helen (Freame) Knowlton received her education in the public schools of New York, and there grew to womanhood. At the age of fourteen years she engaged in teaching, and taught her first term in a select school, at Albion, New York. She continued to teach in the schools of her native state, until she was twenty-three years of age, when, in 1877, she came West. She taught two years in Nebraska and many years in Plymouth county. She was the only one of her family that left their home in New York state. She was recognized as one of the most successful teachers, and taught fifty terms of school in this county, and has taught seventy-eights terms in all.

Alvah S. Knowlton and wife now reside on the old homestead farm, where his mother first located on coming to the county. Here Mr. Knowlton has erected all the substantial buildings and has made many valuable improvements to the farm. Here he engaged in general farming and stock raising for many years, and was interested in the breeding and the raising of Poland China hogs, cattle and draft horses and engaged in bee-keeping quite extensively. Since 1906 he has lived a retired life on the farm. Mr. Knowlton is identified with the Republican party, and has taken an active interest in local affairs, but has never aspired to office. He and his wife attend the Methodist Episcopal church, to which they are liberal supporters. They are prominent in the life of the community, and are held in the highest regard by all.

William Sweetser, a native of Maine, and an uncle of Alvah S. Knowlton, came to Plymouth county in 1869 and homesteaded a farm of one hun-

dred and sixty acres of land, just north of where Mr. Knowlton now lives. Mr. Sweetser was first married to Eliza Runnels, and to this union was born three children. After the death of Eliza Sweetser, Mr. Sweetser was united in marriage to Sarah E. Allen and to this union four children were born. The youngest son, Herbert, was the first of the earliest settlers of Fredonia township to die, his death having occurred in 1870. The eldest son and eldest daughter of Mr. Sweetser, were the first to be married in the township. Mr. Sweetser was a man of much ability and had large interests in the county. Before coming to Iowa, he was engaged in the lumber business in Michigan, where he conducted a saw-mill as well as a grist-mill. On coming to Plymouth county, he engaged in general farming and stock raising, for a number of years, and later moved to Medical Lake, Washington, where he died some years ago.

Alvah S. and Helen A. Knowlton have had much to do with the growth and the development of the township and the county in which they now live. Mr. Knowlton coming to the county at an early day, endured many of the hardships of the early pioneer on the plains. The conditions in the township at that time were most primitive; the neighbors were few and far apart; schools and church facilities were limited, and the little home farm on which the family settled, was undeveloped and unimproved. It was by the strictest economy and hard work that the little family succeeded. Much of the success of the schools of the county in an early day, was due to Mrs. Knowlton's excellent work, the results of which are still in evidence in many localities.

GEHRT ENGELBRECHT.

Gehrt Engelbrecht, one of the well-known and successful farmers of Meadow township, Plymouth county, was born in Holstein, Germany, on December 25, 1851, the son of Gehrt and Katie (Severin) Engelbrecht. The parents were also natives of that country and there received their education in the public schools, and after their marriage established themselves on a farm where they resided to the end of their lives, dying in their native land some years ago. They were active members of the German Lutheran church and took much interest in all church work, and were prominent in the local society in the community in which they lived and where they were held in the highest regard and esteem by all. They were the parents of ten children as follow: Jacob, Gehrt, Anna, Jacob, John, Frank, Herman, Henry and

two who died in infancy. Of the children, three came to America, Henry, Frank and Gehrt. Henry is a successful farmer in Meadow township and Frank is a resident of Mitchell, South Dakota.

Gehrt Engelbrecht was educated in the public schools of his native country and there grew to manhood, and remained a resident of that country until he was twenty-eight years of age. In 1880 he came to America. On his arrival in the United States he proceeded to Holstein, Wisconsin, where he remained for one year and was engaged as a farm hand. He then located in Benton county, Iowa, where he remained for five years and then moved to Sioux county, where he lived for twelve years.

In 1891 Gehrt Engelbrecht was united in marriage to Amanda Wickhorst, a native of Holstein, Germany, and who came to America, the year that she was married. To this union ten children have been born as follow: William, Katie, John, Annie, Charles, Herman, Emil, Alfred, Alma and Vera. William married Anna Grapke and is a successful farmer and stockman of Sioux county, Iowa; Katie is the wife of Henry Rann, a successful and well-to-do farmer of Meadow township, Plymouth county; John is working on a farm in Sioux county; Annie is the wife of George Kantz, a well-known resident of Canostota, South Dakota, and the other children are at home with the parents.

Soon after their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Engelbrecht established their home in Sioux county and were there engaged in general farming for ten years. They then came to Plymouth county, where they purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in section 15, Meadow township. The tract was at that time partially improved and developed, but since that time the present improvements have for the most part been placed by Mr. Engelbrecht, and today he has one of the nicely improved places in the township. The farm has been increased and he is now the owner of three hundred and twenty acres of splendid land, all under a high state of cultivation. He is engaged in general farming and stock raising, in which he has been most successful. He raises many fine Hereford and Shorthorn cattle, Chester White hogs and draft horses, and is recognized as one of the successful stockmen of the county. He cultivates about one hundred and ten acres of corn and ninety acres of small grain each year, the balance of his farm being in pasture and hay.

Mr. and Mrs. Engelbrecht are active members of the Evangelical Lutheran church at Remsen and have ever taken an active part in all church work, and are prominent in the social life of the community. Mr. Engelbrecht is identified with the Republican party and has always taken much interest in

local affairs and has had much to do with the general development and growth of the township, although he has never been an office seeker. On his arrival in the United States, Mr. Engelbrecht had but little money, yet he was possessed of the determination to win, if hard work and close application would assist him. During his early years in this country he experienced many of the hardships of the foreigner in a strange land. He kept at his work and in time succeeded and is today recognized as one of the successful and substantial men of the county, in the affairs of which he has so long taken a prominent part, and where he is universally held in the highest respect.

CARL ROEPKE.

Carl Roepke, one of the well-known and successful farmers of Lincoln township, Plymouth county, Iowa, was born in Pomerania, Germany, on October 12, 1857, being the son of Wilhelm and Wilhelmena (Grotzke) Roepke.

Gotlieb Roepke, the paternal grandfather of Carl Roepke, was also a native of Germany, and there he and his wife were educated in the public schools and grew up and were married. They lived their lives in their native country, and were prominent in the work of the Lutheran church, and the social life of their community. The grandfather was a man of much influence in the district. As a young man he became a trained soldier and was active in the war against France, and at that time saw much active service.

Wilhelm and Wilhelmena Roepke were born in Germany and there received their education in the public schools and grew to manhood and womanhood and were married, and there their children were born. After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Roepke continued to live in their native land and there the mother died. Some years after the death of his wife, Wilhelm Roepke came to the United States in 1889. On his arrival in this country, he came direct to Iowa, and here he located in Plymouth county. Before he left Germany, he was united in marriage to Johannah Long, and to this union the following children were born, Emma, Johannah, Otilia and August. By this marriage to Wilhelmena Grotzke, he was the father of the following children: Julius, Caroline, Carl, Fritz, Bertha, Wilhelmena, now deceased, and Ernestine. Mr. Roepke died in 1900 and was buried at the Lutheran cemetery in Lincoln township.



CARL RIEPKE AND FAMILY

Carl Roepke received his education in the public schools of Germany and there grew to manhood, and there he resided until he was twenty-five years of age, when he decided to come to the United States in 1882. On his arrival in this country he came direct to Illinois, and here he located at Joliet, where he worked in a factory for some time. He then removed to Miami county, Kansas, where he rented land and engaged in general farming. He later returned to Joliet, where he remained for six years, when he came to Iowa, and located in Plymouth county. He came to the county in 1894, and in 1901 he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in section 28, Lincoln township, and nine years later bought another one hundred and sixty acres in section 27, making in all a farm of three hundred and twenty acres. He built his present substantial house in section 27, and later placed all the other improvements.

As a young man, Carl Roepke was united in marriage to Henrietta Manthei and to this union the following children have been born: Emma, Frank, Fritz, Henry, Elsie, Ludwig, Erech and Eduardt. Mr. and Mrs. Roepke are active members of the German Lutheran church and have long been prominent in the social and the religious life of the community.

JOSEPH KEFFELER.

Joseph Keffeler, a well-known and successful farmer and stockman, of Meadow township, Plymouth county, was born on October 2, 1872, in Luxemburg, the son of Nicholas and Anna (Wilhelm) Keffeler.

Nicholas and Anna Keffeler were also natives of Luxemburg and there received their education, grew to maturity and were married. They continued to live in their native land for some years after their marriage and there Mr. Keffeler engaged in farming. In 1883 Mr. and Mrs. Keffeler came to America, where they might the better make a home for themselves and those dependent upon them. On their arrival in the United States they proceeded to South Dakota, where they located on a homestead in the Black Hills, near Deadwood, where they remained for some years. The family later moved to Wibaux, Montana, where the father was engaged in the stock business, on a large ranch. The parents now live in Dubuque, Iowa, and are among the respected and substantial residents of their home community. They were the parents of the following children, Joseph, Lambert, Philip,

John, Justine, Nicholas, Mary and Henry. Lambert is a stockman of Wibaux, Montana; Philip is a farmer and stockman of Billings, Montana; John is engaged in farming and stock business near Remsen, Iowa; Justine lives at Dubuque; Nicholas is a farmer near Windom, Minnesota; Mary lives in the Black Hills, South Dakota, and Henry is a general farmer and stockman of Windom, Minnesota.

Joseph Keffeler received his education in the local schools and the parochial schools and was reared on the home farm, where he remained until he was twenty-seven years of age, at which time he was united in marriage on September 4, 1900, to Matilda Wenner, the daughter of Henry and Anna (Faber) Wenner. Henry Wenner, who is today a well-known and prominent retired farmer of Remsen, Plymouth county, was born in Luxemburg, on February 15, 1847, the son of John and Anna Z. (Mosler) Wenner. The father as a young man learned the tailor trade, at which he worked for many years, but later engaged in farming. He and his wife died in their native land where they had spent their lives in useful work, and where they had made many friends, who held them in the highest esteem. They were the parents of eleven children, three of whom are now residents of this country, Margaret, Mary, and Henry. The parents were devout members of the Catholic church and reared their children in that faith.

Henry Wenner received his education in the public schools of Luxemburg and there engaged as a farm hand until he was nineteen years of age, when he decided to seek his fortune in America. On his arrival in this country he at once came to Iowa, where he worked as a farm hand in Dubuque county until 1874, when he came to Plymouth county. Here he rented a farm three miles east of Le Mars, where he engaged in general farming for two years, when he bought eighty acres of land at seven dollars per acre. The tract at that time was wild prairie, on which he erected a small house and began the task of development. A grove was soon planted and the tough prairie sod was broken and crops planted, and in time Mr. Wenner begun to prosper. He invested in more land and became the owner of three hundred and forty acres of the best land. This he improved with good buildings and continued his activities as a general farmer and stockman until 1903, when he retired to Remsen, where he now lives.

In 1870 Henry Wenner was united in marriage to Anna Faber, the daughter of John and Katherine (May) Faber, and to this union the following children were born: Margaret, Katherine, Elizabeth, Matilda, Anna, May, Isabelle, Clara, Rose, Regena, and Henry. Mr. Wenner has always taken much interest in local affairs and has had much to do with the physical

and the civic life of the township. He has served as a member of the school board for many years, and was township trustee and assessor. He and his wife have for many years been prominent in the social life of the community, in which they have lived so long and where they are esteemed by all who know them. They are devout members of the Catholic church and take much interest in all church work.

To Joseph and Matilda (Wenmer) Keffeler have been born the following children: Florence, born on July 26, 1902; Orlando, January 29, 1904; Urban, July 31, 1905; Maurice, October 20, 1907; Regina, September 7, 1909; Alfred, June 3, 1911; Clarence, August 21, 1913, and Katherine, December 17, 1915. The parents are educating their children in the public and parochial schools and rearing them in the faith of the Catholic church.

Soon after their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Keffeler located in the Black Hills of South Dakota, where they secured a homestead and remained for three years. They established their home at Wibaux, Montana, where they lived for three years, when they became residents of Sioux county, Iowa, where they remained for one year, after which they purchased their present home in Meadow township, Plymouth county, known as the Dieckman place. Mr. Keffeler has made all the present improvements on the place. His house is a substantial one and his barns and outbuildings are among the best in the township. In 1914 he built his round barn, eighty-four feet in diameter and fifty-four feet to the cupola. His silo is sixteen by thirty-eight feet and will hold one hundred and thirty tons. He is engaged in general farming and stock raising, and keeps some of the very best Jersey and Hereford cattle, as well as Poland China hogs, draft horses and Shropshire sheep. He cultivates some one hundred acres of corn and sixty acres of small grain each year, in addition to feeding one hundred head of hogs and two carloads of cattle. By hard work and close application to business he has risen from the place of a poor boy to the position of a man of influence, and is today recognized as one of the substantial men of the township as well as the county.

Politically, Mr. Keffeler votes the independent ticket and has always taken much interest in local affairs. He gives his influence to the best interest of the community in which he resides. He is progressive and believes in the latest methods of farming, and the substantial development of the district. Good roads and good schools are to him the essential elements that tend to the permanent greatness of the county, and to them he has always given his earnest support. He and his wife are active members of the Catholic church and have long been prominent in the social life of the community, where they are held in high esteem.

GWYNNE J. GRIFFITH.

Among the many well-known and successful farmers of Garfield township, Plymouth county, who are of foreign birth, is Gwynne J. Griffith, a native of Wales, where he was born on March 1, 1860, and is the son of John and Rose (Morgans) Griffith.

John Griffith, the paternal grandfather was a successful farmer in England and there he and his wife died many years ago. The father and mother of Gwynne Griffith, the subject of this sketch, were of the farming class in Wales, and most highly respected people. The father devoted his life to farming and was the owner of fifty-five acres of land. They were active members of the Baptist church and during their lives took much interest in all church work. The mother died many years ago, and the father's death occurred in 1904 at the age of eighty-four years. John and Rose Griffith were the parents of the following children, Mary Ann, Margaret, Gwynne, James, William, Caroline, Robert and Arthur, who served in the King's Guards in England. The children are all living and are residents of their native land, with the exceptions of James and Gwynne, who came to the United States.

Gwynne Griffith was educated in the schools of England and there grew to manhood. He remained at home and assisted his father with the work on the farm, until he was twenty-two years of age, at which time he and his brother, James, came to America. After having landed at New York in 1882, they came direct to Illinois, where they lived in Caine county for two years, and in 1884 took up their residence in Plymouth county.

Gwynne Griffith was united in marriage on February 6, 1889, to Ellen M. Hawkins, who was born in Benton county, Iowa, and is the daughter of Samuel and Ellen (Scott) Hawkins, who came to this county in 1884, having located in section 16, Garfield township, where they have since been engaged in general farming and stock raising. To Mr. and Mrs. Griffith have been born five children as follow: Pearl, Arthur, Lloyd, Robert and Gladys. Pearl is now the wife of Ivan Oleson; Arthur married Grace Heckenlively; Robert is attending high school at Kingsley and Lloyd is at home assisting his father.

Mr. Griffith located on his present farm of one hundred and fifty-nine acres in 1905. The place is located in section 2 and is under a high state of cultivation and well improved, all the improvements having been placed by Mr. Griffith. He is a thorough farmer and an excellent stockman, his farm

being recognized as one of the ideal places in the township and Mr. Griffith one of the substantial men. He takes much interest in his fine herd of Hereford cattle and has many Poland China hogs. He has served on the school board for a number of years and has always taken much interest in the success of the school. He and his wife are active members of the Methodist Episcopal church at Kingsley.

FRANK LUDWIG.

One of the enterprising young farmers of Fredonia township, Plymouth county, who is a careful student of modern farming conditions, and who keeps his farm in a highly productive state through judicious and timely management, is Frank Ludwig, who was born at Kehmen, Deikeirch, Luxemburg, Germany, May 11, 1886. He is a son of Theodore and Margaret (Hennes) Ludwig, also natives of Luxemburg. Additional mention of this family will be found in the sketch of John Ludwig in this volume.

Frank Ludwig grew up in his native land and went to school there, also attended school after coming to Dubuque county, Iowa, having come to America with his parents. When he started out for himself he rented land for some time in Meadow township, Plymouth county, he and his brother, Martin, renting two hundred acres for one year. He then rented a farm of four hundred acres in America township for two years. Frank bought out his brother in 1911 and now resides on the place. Then he and his brother, Martin, bought a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Fredonia township, where Frank still resides, having lived here since 1910, engaged in general farming, stock raising and feeding. He has made many important improvements on the place, erecting a modern home, installing a waterworks system, large silo of cement blocks, with one hundred and fifty tons capacity.

Mr. Ludwig was married on January 10, 1910, to Elizabeth Starbell, who was born in Stanton township, Plymouth county. She is a daughter of Frank and Josephine (Fuchis) Starbell, of Black Hawk county, Iowa, where they grew up and married, coming to Plymouth county in 1881, locating on a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Stanton township, where they farmed until retiring from active life, and are now living in Le Mars. To these parents twelve children were born, two of whom are deceased, namely: Margaret, who is the wife of Henry Dornhorst, of Madison, Minnesota; Elizabeth, wife of Mr. Ludwig; Frank, who is deceased; Anna, who is the

wife of M. Kellen, of Madison, Minnesota; Emma, who is the wife of John Kellen, of Madison, Minnesota; Mary, who is teaching in the Sisters of Charity school, St. Louis, Missouri; Joseph, who is farming near Madison, Minnesota; Clara, who is keeping house for her grandfather in Waterloo, Iowa; Dora, who is at home; Norbet, who is deceased; Rosella and Wilhelm, who are at home.

Four children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Ludwig, namely: Olive, Clitus, Francis and Marie.

Politically, Mr. Ludwig is a Democrat. He has served several terms as school director. He belongs to the Knights of Columbus and to St. Kathryne's Catholic church.

ALEX. McDOUGALL.

Alex. McDougall, one of the best known residents of Plymouth county, and one of the few remaining early pioneers of Grant township and the only veteran of the Civil War residing there, was born in La Salle county, Illinois, on May 18, 1842, the son of James and Adeline (Howard) McDougall.

James and Adeline McDougall were natives of Scotland and the state of New York, respectively. James McDougall received his education in his native country. At the age of sixteen years he came to America, and for a time located in Canada, and later in the Southern states of this country, after which he came to La Salle county, Illinois. He was a carpenter by trade, at which he worked for some years. In 1848 he located at Mineral Point, Iowa county, Wisconsin, and later moved to Grant county, Wisconsin, where he obtained a farm and where he and his family lived until 1870, when they came to Grant township, Plymouth county, and established their home on the farm where the son, James, now resides. He and his son, Alex., drove the long distance from their home in Wisconsin, to their new home in Plymouth county. After having become established in their new home, Mr. McDougall engaged in general farming and stock raising until the time of his death at the age of seventy-six years, and his widow died at the age of eighty-five years. Mr. McDougall was a member of the Presbyterian church, in which he had been reared and his wife was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and both were well known in the county and were held in the highest regard and esteem by all who knew them.

James and Adeline McDougall were the parents of the following children: Alex, Harriett, Mary, James, Sarah and John. Harriett, now

deceased, was the wife of Stewart Craig; Mary is the wife of Thomas Edwards, deceased, and lives at Ireton, Iowa; James, who married Martha Warren, is a well-known farmer of Grant township; Sarah, now dead, was the wife of James Andrews, Iowa.

Alex. McDougall received his education in the public schools of Wisconsin and there grew to manhood. In 1870 he came to Plymouth county with his father, having driven through. In 1880 he was united in marriage to Kate E. Noble and to this union the following children have been born: George F., Margaret, Annie, Jennie, Florence, Alice, Grace, Alex., Jr., Hugh and Judson. George F. McDougall received his education in the common schools of Plymouth county, and attended Western Union College at Le Mars and was for three years a student at Hastings, Nebraska. He later took one year of post-graduate work at Lincoln, Nebraska, and attended McCormick Seminary at Chicago, Illinois, and finished his university work at Edinburgh, Scotland, where he remained one year. He entered the ministry and on his return from Scotland had charge of the Presbyterian church at Orleans, Nebraska, for two years, but owing to poor health he took up the ministerial work at Bridgeport, Nebraska, where he has been for the past three years and has met with much success in his chosen work. Some time after completing his school work in Scotland, he returned to that country and was there united in marriage to Annie Phillips and to this union two children have been born, Emily and Lillian. Margaret McDougall became the wife of Martin Nanninga and resides at Beresford, South Dakota; Annie is the wife of Conrad Nanninga and also lives at Beresford and is the mother of six children as follow: Grace, Lloyd, Helen, Alex, Orville and Howard. Jennie died in 1886 and left her bereaved husband, James G. Day, and one son, Howard; Florence is the wife of N. J. Delperdang, of Struble, Iowa, and they have two children, Catherine and Frances. Alice married Frank Wells, of Sioux City, and they are the parents of four children, Mildred, Milton, Charles and Alan. Grace is the wife of Albert Null of Le Mars, Iowa, and is the mother of two children, Richard and Russell. Alex., Jr., Hugh and Judson are at home. Mr. and Mrs. McDougall have always taken much interest in education; their children were all educated in the home schools and Grace attended Morning-side and Western Union College at Le Mars. Mrs. McDougall received her education in the schools of Eaton and Wheatland, Iowa, and before her marriage was a successful teacher in the schools of Plymouth and Sioux counties for several years.

After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. McDougall established their home on

a farm in section 2, Grant township, and have here made their home. All the improvements on his valuable farm of two hundred and forty acres have been placed by Mr. McDougall and here he has engaged in general farming and stock raising, in which he has been most successful. He has always taken much interest in local affairs and especially in the schools of the township, and for a time was director of his home district. Mrs. McDougall is an active member of the Methodist Episcopal church and has always taken much interest in all the services of the church. Both she and Mr. McDougall are well versed in current affairs and are familiar with the early life on the plains in Plymouth county. They have among their valuable collection of old-time articles, the first picture that was taken in Le Mars, which is of the corner where the German-American Bank now stands, and was taken in 1872.

Alex. McDougall is the only veteran of the Civil War now living in Grant township. It was at Highland, Wisconsin, that he enlisted on October 24, 1862, in Company G, Twenty-seventh Regiment, Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, and was soon stationed at Milwaukee. While there the barracks burned and Mr. McDougall contracted a fever and was in the hospital for three months, and then spent some time at home on a furlough. He later joined the regiment at Columbus, Kentucky, and was at the siege of Vicksburg and Haines Bluff. After the surrender of Vicksburg, he with his regiment was transported up the river to Helena, Arkansas, after which they marched through the state to Little Rock, where they went into winter quarters. In the spring they joined General Banks at Shreveport, Louisiana, and later returned to Little Rock and then to New Orleans on their way to Brownsville, Texas, where he was discharged in the fall of 1865. He has long been a member of the Grand Army of the Republic at Ireton and his wife is a member of the Relief Corps at Le Mars. She is also president of the "Aid Society" and superintendent of the Methodist Episcopal Sunday school and a church worker of much ability. Their lives have been most active and they have accomplished much in the educational, social and moral development of the township and are recognized as among the most prominent and well-known people of the county, where they have lived for so many years and where they are held in the highest regard. To Mr. and Mrs. McDougall, the county owes much for its high standard of excellence. They braved the hardships of early pioneer life on the plains, where once the wild prairie grass had unlimited sway. During the early days they did not forget the church and the school, and these institutions were among the first in the land.

HENRY CONRAD COLLMANN.

Among the many well-known natives of Germany, who had much to do with the early history of Plymouth county, and whose efforts and wise management developed the wild prairie into fertile fields and substantial homes, with good roads, excellent schools and well-established business enterprises, was Henry Conrad Collmann, now deceased. He was born in Oldenburg on May 10, 1838, and but little is known of his family history, other than his own life. He received his education in the public schools of his native land and there grew to manhood. As a lad he learned the trade of a shoemaker, which he followed during his residence in the land of his birth, where he remained until he was thirty-one years of age. In 1869 he came to America, and on his arrival in the United States, he came direct to Iowa, where he located in Jones county, and there worked as a farm hand until 1872, when he came to Plymouth county. Here he homesteaded eighty acres of land in section 22, Preston township, and purchased a homestead right to eighty acres that adjoined it, on the west. He owned the latter eighty acres of land but a short time, when he sold it to C. B. Frerichs.

Soon after locating on the homestead, Henry Conrad Collmann erected a small shanty, twelve by thirteen feet, and in this he and his family lived for ten years. At that time he had but one horse and a cow. His neighbor, Mr. Frerichs, also had but one horse and between the two men they were able to have a team. With this team they broke their first land and planted their first crop. Mr. Collmann at that time had five acres of wheat and received fifty bushels for his first crop. This was a most acceptable crop, for it furnished the material for their bread during their long months of hard work. Mr. Collmann continued the breaking of the prairie sod and preparing it for cultivation. He planted and cared for the beautiful grove now on the place, and made many other substantial improvements, that added much to the beauty and the value of the place. In time he built the splendid house, which is now on the farm. This was the second house and replaced the small shanty in which the family had lived for so many years. An excellent barn and other outbuildings were erected, all of which he kept in a good state of repair. He purchased more land and at the time of his death he was the owner of two hundred acres of land, one hundred and sixty acres of which was located in section 22 and forty acres in section 27. It was on this farm that he made his home and engaged in general farming and stock raising, until the time of his death, on April 27, 1912.

Henry Conrad Collmann and wife were active members of the German Lutheran church, and were always much interested in church work and were long prominent in the social life of the community. Mr. Collmann took much interest in local affairs, and was for many years a director of his school district, and also served on the church board. He was a man of much ability and excellent judgment, and was often consulted relative to matters of importance in township and county affairs, as well as in the church. His life was a most active one and he accomplished much that is worthy of emulation, and he was held in the highest regard by all who knew him.

On February 29, 1872, Henry Conrad Collmann was united in marriage to Anka Margaret Helgens, a native of Hanover, Germany, and the daughter of William and Meta Helgens, who were also natives of Hanover. Mr. and Mrs. Helgens were educated in the public schools of Hanover, and there grew to maturity and were married. They continued to reside in the land of their nativity until 1857, when they decided to come to America. On their arrival in the United States, they came direct to Illinois, where they located at Dixon. They remained at Dixon for seven years, during which time, Mr. Helgens worked as a laborer. Some time later they established themselves on a farm, which they rented, and engaged in farming. They later came to Iowa, and here they located in Jones county, where Mr. Helgens purchased eighty acres of land, to which he later added another eighty acres. Here he engaged in general farming and stock raising and was successful. It was on this farm that both Mr. and Mrs. Helgens died some years ago. They were the parents of ten children, Harm, Mary, Emma, Louise, Anna, Anka Margaret and four that died in infancy. Mr. and Mrs. Helgens were active in the social life of the community in which they lived, and were held in the highest esteem.

Henry Conrad and Anka Margaret Collman were the parents of nine children, Meta, William, Gertrude, Louie, Emma, Henry, Albert and two who died in infancy. Meta is the wife of Henry Theilen of Le Mars, and they are the parents of five children, Bennie, Emma, Louie, Gertrude and Hannah; William married Kate Helgens and they are the parents of six children, Alvil, Rudolph, Clarence, Harry, Vernon and Fred. William Collmann is engaged in farming and stock raising at Amboy, Minnesota. Gertrude is the wife of Ben Theilen, a farmer, of Maynard, Minnesota; Louis, who farms a part of the home place, married Clara Folkner, and they have had born to them two children, Cleo and Ruth, who was six when she died in 1915; Emma is the wife of Lewis Borchus, a farmer of section 36, Preston township, and they are the parents of five children, Willie, Henry, Ben, Helen,

and Harvey; Henry married Christena Catherine Morrison, and he is engaged in farming a part of the home place and lives with the mother; Albert, who is engaged as a carpenter, is single and lives at home with his mother and brother Henry and wife. The family has long been prominent in the social life of the district and are held in high regard.

JOHN DOERING.

John Doering, a well-known and progressive farmer of Grant township, has been a resident of this county since he was but an infant, his parents having settled here in pioneer days, moving over from Jones county, this state, shortly after he was born and establishing themselves among the pioneers of this section of Iowa. He was born in Jones county on June 24, 1870, son of H. O. and Anna Doering, natives of Germany, who are now living in comfortable retirement at Le Mars.

H. O. Doering came to this country from Germany when a young man, with little more than enough to pay his passage over, and settled at Dixon, Illinois, in the vicinity of which place he worked as a farm hand until he came to Iowa and rented a tract in Jones county, remaining there until 1871, in which year he disposed of his interests there and came over to Plymouth county and bought a quarter of a section in Grant township, the place where the subject of this sketch is now living, and there established his home. From the very beginning he was successful in his farming operations and as he prospered he added to his holdings until he became the owner of seven hundred and sixty acres of land in this county. He continued making his home on the farm in Grant township until 1892, when he retired and moved to Le Mars, where he and his wife are now making their home. To them seven children were born, of whom six are still living, those besides the subject of this sketch being Albert, George, William, Henry and Rosa.

John Doering was reared on the home farm in Grant township, receiving his schooling in the pioneer schools of that district, and when twenty-one years of age began farming on his own account, renting land from his father, and later bought the home tract of three hundred and twenty acres, to which he later added by purchase and is now the owner of a fine farm of five hundred and fifty acres, but is personally farming but the half section comprised in the old home place, where he makes his home and where he and his family are comfortably situated. Mr. Doering feeds about one hundred and fifty

head of hogs a year and about a carload of cattle and is doing quite well with his stock raising, as well as with his general farming. He is a Democrat in his political affiliation and is now serving the public in the capacity of director of his local school district.

In 1892 John Doering was united in marriage to Sena Haage, daughter of John and Sena (Harms) Haage, and to this union one child has been born, a son, Otto. Mrs. Doering was born in Ostfriesland, Germany, her parents also being natives of that same place. They had a small farm there and spent all their lives there. Of their six children, five came to this country, those besides Mrs. Doering to come over being Fred, Hannah, Marie, Tina and Sena. The Doerings are members of the German Lutheran church and take a warm interest in the affairs of the same, as well as in the general good works of the community in which they live.

ELMER RICHARD THOMPSON.

Elmer Richard Thompson, one of Union township's well-known and progressive farmers and stockmen and the owner of a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres in that township, is a native son of Iowa and has lived in this state all his life, a resident of Plymouth county since he was eleven years of age. He was born in the city of Dubuque on January 2, 1869, son of George W. and Elizabeth Jane (Curtis) Thompson, natives of England, who were married in Dubuque, where they made their home until 1880, in which year they came to Plymouth county, where they spent the remainder of their lives.

Upon coming to this county George W. Thompson bought a half section of land in Lincoln township and there established his home, his death occurring on October 15, 1894. They were the parents of nine children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the seventh in order of birth, the others being as follow: Sarah Ann, deceased; Mary C., now living at Sioux City, widow of Walter Crippen; Thomas J., who married Dirkie Simmons and lives in Idaho; George W., who married Belle Richards and is living at Hinton, this county; Elizabeth J., who married Joseph Richards, also of Hinton; John R., who married Amanda Manz and is living at McPherson, Kansas; Frank C., who married Augusta Stabe and is now living in Oklahoma, and Joseph H., who married Clara Kohle and lives at Hinton.

Elmer R. Thompson was about eleven years of age when his parents

moved to this county and he grew to manhood on the home farm in Lincoln township, completing his schooling in the common schools of that neighborhood. From boyhood he was a valued assistant to his father in the labors of developing and improving the home farm and after his marriage in 1895 continued to make his home there for six years, at the end of which time he bought his present farm of one hundred and sixty acres in section 32 of Union township, where he ever since has made his home. Since buying that place Mr. Thompson has remodeled the house along modern lines, has built two barns, granaries, a garage and other farm buildings in keeping with the same and now has an excellent farm plant. In addition to his general farming he gives considerable attention to the raising of live stock, making a specialty of Shorthorn cattle and Duroc-Jersey hogs. Mr. Thompson also owns a quarter section of land in the vicinity of Newkirk, Oklahoma, and his wife is the owner of forty acres in Lincoln township, this county. Mr. Thompson is a Prohibitionist in his political belief and gives close attention to local political affairs. For many years he served as school director in his district.

On December 25, 1895, Elmer R. Thompson was united in marriage to Alice Miranda Peron, who was born in Lincoln township, this county, a daughter of William and Mary J. (Franklin) Peron, the former a native of the state of New York and the latter of Michigan, who came to this county in 1876 and settled on a farm in the Hinton neighborhood, where they spent the remainder of their lives, Mrs. Peron dying on June 9, 1913, at the age of sixty-seven years, and Mr. Peron dying on December 22 of that same year, he then being seventy years of age. William Peron and wife were the parents of twelve children, of whom Mrs. Thompson was the eighth in order of birth, the others being as follow: Etta, who married Oren Green, of Le Mars, this county; Iowa, who married Jerry Harrison, of Lincoln township; William Henry, who died on January 29, 1893; Bertie Frank, who died on March 13, 1881; Mary Elizabeth, who died on February 13, 1881; Florence Adeline, who married Gilbert Harrison, of Hinton; Hattie Richnia, who married Sherman McKibben, of Lincoln township; George Martin, who married Elizabeth Finnegan and lives at Le Mars; Emma Jane, who married Herbert Soule and died on October 3, 1900; Earl Francis, who married Louise Crogar and lives at Laverne, Minnesota, and Olive May, who married Thomas Bailey and also lives at Laverne.

To Elmer R. and Alice M. (Peron) Thompson seven children have been born, namely: Leslie Elmer, born on November 13, 1896; Elsie Jane, January 1, 1898; Reuel Richard, August 10, 1900; Hazel Olive, August 10, 1904; Harold Peron, February 13, 1908; Ruby Alice, November 7, 1910, and Rus-

sell, June 24, 1913. Mr. and Mrs. Thompson are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and take a proper interest in the various beneficences of the same, as well as in all local good works, helpful in promoting all movements having to do with the advancement of the welfare of the community in which they live.

JOHN MANDELKOW.

John Mandelkow, one of the most progressive young farmers of Elgin township, is a native son of Plymouth county and has lived here all his life. He was born at Le Mars, the county seat, March 25, 1877, son of William and Minnie Mandelkow, natives of Pommern, Prussia, who came to the United States in the middle seventies and after a brief residence at Bloomington, Illinois, where William Mandelkow worked at his trade as a carpenter, came to Iowa and located at Le Mars, where they lived for a few years, at the end of which time they moved to a farm, which he bought, in Grant township. Later William Mandelkow bought all of section 8 in Elgin township, where the village of Struble is now located, and his last days were spent in that village, his death occurring at his home in Struble in 1904. He and his wife were the parents of four children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the youngest, the others besides Mrs. Wilde being William F. and Herman, farmers in the vicinity of Struble and further mention of both of whom is made elsewhere in this volume.

John Mandelkow was but an infant when his parents moved from Le Mars to the farm in Grant township and he grew to manhood on the farm, receiving his schooling in the district schools of Grant and Elgin townships. He remained on the farm, a valued aid to his father and his brothers in the work of developing and improving the same, until his marriage at the age of twenty-three years, when he started farming for himself, renting from his father the farm of two hundred acres on which he is now living, and following the death of his father bought from the other heirs their interest in the place and has since continued to make his home there. Mr. Mandelkow has one of the best-improved farms in that neighborhood and all the improvements on the place have been remodeled by himself. He feeds about one hundred and fifty head of hogs and sheep annually and has found this phase of farming one of profit. He is also a breeder of registered Shorthorn cattle and Shropshire sheep. Mr. Mandelkow is a Republican and takes proper interest in local civic affairs, but has not been a seeker after office.

In February, 1900, John Mandelkow was united in marriage to Lillian Kruse, daughter of Joseph and Julia Kruse, and to this union two children have been born, a daughter, Verna, and Mildred, who at the age of nine months died. The Mandelkows are members of the German Lutheran church and are helpful in all neighborhood good works.

HARRY REINTS.

Harry Reints, one of Elgin township's well-known and progressive farmers, is a native of Illinois, born at Freeport, that state, but has been a resident of Plymouth county since 1885. He was born on October 31, 1864, son of William and Hilka (Van Deist) Reints, natives of Germany, who had come to this country in the days of their youth with their respective parents, both families settling in Stephenson county, Illinois. There William Reints was married. He owned a farm in the vicinity of Freeport and was also engaged in the lumber business and operated a grocery store at that place. Later he located on a farm near Foreston, in Ogle county, Illinois, and there remained until 1885, in which year he disposed of his interests at that place and moved to Iowa, settling on a farm in Stanton township, this county. He developed that farm and became one of the substantial farmers of that neighborhood. His wife died there in July, 1904, and he has since been making his home with a daughter on the old home place and with a son in Oklahoma. William Reints is a member of the Evangelical Association, as was his wife, and their children were reared in that faith. There were seven of these children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the third in order of birth, the others being as follow: Kate, the widow of Richard Meiners, of Stanton township; William, deceased; M. W., of LeMars; Annie, who married Charles Werth and lives in Stanton township; Maggie, who married William Werth and lives at Le Mars, and John, who is now farming in Key county, Oklahoma.

Harry Reints received his schooling in the common schools of Ogle county, Illinois, and grew up to the life of the farm. When his parents came to Plymouth county in 1885 he accompanied them and assisted in the work of improving and developing the home farm, remaining there until his marriage in 1892, after which he settled on the farm in section 16 of Elgin township, where he has since made his home and where he and his family are very pleasantly situated. When Mr. Reints took possession of that place it was

a "new" farm and all the improvements on the place have been made by him. In 1895 he built a fine new house and in 1906 built a new barn. The other improvements on the place are in keeping with these, the whole place being well kept and profitably cultivated. In addition to his general farming, Mr. Reints pays considerable attention to his live stock, raising a good grade of cattle, Poland China hogs and draft horses and is doing very well. He is a Republican and has served the public in the capacity of school director and as township road superintendent, in which latter capacity he is now serving.

In the spring of 1892 Harry Reints was united in marriage to Martha Detloff, who was born at Bloomington, Illinois, a daughter of Henry and Paulina (Pech) Detloff, pioneers of Plymouth county, further mention of whom is made elsewhere in this volume, and to this union six children have been born, namely: Carrie, who married Frank Weber, of Fredonia township, and has one child, a son, Leonard, and Henry, William, Leona, Lewis (deceased) and Minnie. The Reints family have a very pleasant home and take a proper part in the general social activities of the community in which they live.

E. S. KITTERMAN.

Among the young men of Elkhorn township, Plymouth county, who is meeting with success as a farmer and stock man, is E. S. Kitterman, who was born in the township, where he now resides on March 30, 1891, being the son of Silas and Almira (Tower) Kitterman.

The paternal grandparents of E. S. Kitterman were Patrick Kitterman and wife, who were natives of Crawford county, Indiana, where they received their education, grew up and were married. Their family was born in that county and there the parents lived and died. They were prominent in the early life of the county and were active in the social and the religious life of the community in which they lived.

Silas Kitterman received his education in the common schools of Crawford county, Indiana, and there grew to manhood, and was married. As a lad and young man he assisted his father with the work on the farm and remained a resident of the county until 1886, at which time he decided to leave and seek another location where he might better obtain a home for himself and his family. He moved to Faulk county, South Dakota, where he homesteaded a farm and two years later moved to Merville, Iowa, where he remained for one year and then moved to Kingsley, Iowa. He sold his



farm in South Dakota, and on coming to Iowa early in 1890, he located at Quorn, where he worked as a laborer. He was drowned the following June, after coming to the state. For the past three years the widow has been living with her sons, Arthur and Benjamin, at Tracy, Minnesota. Mr. and Mrs. Kitterman were the parents of six children: Minnie, Maud, Albert, Arthur, Benjamin and E. S. Minnie became the wife of J. W. Wolenetz; Maud, who was the wife of H. C. Wells, is now deceased; Albert is a resident of Dolan, South Dakota, and Arthur and Benjamin are living at Tracy, Minnesota.

E. S. Kitterman received his education in the public schools of Plymouth county, and here grew to manhood. After completing his work in the common schools he later attended the National Business College, and after completing the work there, he attended the Western Union College at Le Mars, Iowa, in the summers and taught school for two winters, and was recognized as one of the successful teachers of the township. On December 25, 1912, E. S. Kitterman was united in marriage to Kathryn Featherston, and to this union, one child, Dorathy Arline, has been born.

In June, 1911, Mr. Kitterman purchased eighty acres of land in section 17, Elkhorn township, which he has greatly developed and where he has since made his home. Here he is engaged in general farming and stock raising and is today recognized as one of the most prominent stock men in this section of the county. He keeps some two hundred head of fine Duroc-Jersey hogs and fifty head of pure blood Shorthorn cattle. He generally holds one or two stock sales each year, which are largely attended. His stock being recognized as among the best in the district, many of the prominent stock men of the community attend his sales, for the purpose of getting the best of breeding stock. He selects his stock with much care and gives them the most careful attention. He has given careful study to the breeding and the care of both cattle and hogs, and his effort in this line has met with much success.

E. S. Kitterman and wife are active members of the Methodist Episcopal church and have always taken much interest in all church work, and are among the active workers in the local church at Kingsley, where they have been members for a number of years. In addition to their church work, they have long been prominent in the social life of the community, and are held in the highest regard and esteem by all who know them. They are a most hospitable people and one of their greatest pleasures is in the entertainment of the neighbors and friends.

Fraternally, Mr. Kitterman is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America and takes much interest in the success of the local organization. He has always taken much interest in local affairs and is ever ready to assist in any worthy cause that has a tendency to the promotion of the best interests of the district.

DUNCAN F. McARTHUR.

Duncan F. McArthur, one of the best-known and most substantial farmers of Plymouth county and proprietor of a fine farm in Elgin township, is a native of Canada, but has been a resident of Iowa since he was five years of age and of Plymouth county since he was seventeen. He was born in the province of Ontario on February 15, 1868, son of Nathaniel and Fannie (McKerley) McArthur, the former a native of Scotland and the latter of Canada, whose last days were spent in this county, honored and respected pioneer citizens.

Nathaniel McArthur was born in Dumfriesshire, Scotland, and was but a lad when his parents emigrated to Canada, landing at Quebec. He grew to manhood in Canada and married there. In 1873 he came with his family to Iowa and settled on a farm in Jackson county, where he remained until 1885, when he disposed of his interests there and moved over to Plymouth county, settling on a farm in section 14 of Elgin township, where he and his wife spent the remainder of their lives. Mr. McArthur died on September 28, 1891, at the age of seventy-four years, and his widow survived him for many years, her death occurring on April 1, 1916, she then being eighty-five years of age. They were members of the Presbyterian church and their children were reared in that faith. There were seven of these children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the last-born, the others being as follow: Sarah, who married Alfred Chaffee, of Van Buren county, this state; John, who married Mary Dickison and lives at Paola, Kansas; Daniel, who married Clara March and lives at Sheldon, Iowa; Mary, who married Herbert Dickinson and lives in Oklahoma; William, who married Laura Smith and lives at Sioux City, and Alexander, who married Ann Lancaster and lives in Elgin township, this county.

Duncan F. McArthur was but five years of age when his parents came to Iowa from Canada and was seventeen when they moved over from Jackson county to Plymouth county. Upon coming to this county he continued to take his place in the work of the farm and has ever since made his home

on the home farm in Elgin township, where he and his family are very pleasantly situated. After his marriage in 1892 he began farming on his own account and is now the owner of two hundred and eighty acres of valuable land, which he has improved in excellent shape and which he has brought up to a high state of cultivation. In 1915 Mr. McArthur erected his present modern residence, a house of eight rooms, electrically lighted and otherwise up-to-date, built at a cost of seven thousand dollars; and his barn and other farm buildings are in keeping with the same, he having one of the best-appointed farm plants in that part of the county. In addition to his general farming Mr. McArthur has for years given considerable attention to the breeding of live stock, raising Aberdeen-Angus cattle, Poland China hogs and Percheron horses, and has done very well in that line. For the past six years he has lived practically retired from the active labors of the farm and the place is now under the management of his son-in-law, Earl Chapman, one of the progressive young farmers of that neighborhood. The farm is registered as "Floyd Valley Farm."

On February 4, 1892, Duncan F. McArthur was united in marriage to Martha J. Hinde, who was born in Dubuque county, this state, daughter of Richard and Martha (Mollart) Hinde, natives of England, whose last days were spent in Sioux county, this state. Richard Hinde was born in Cheshire in 1835 and in 1853 came to the United States, locating in Dubuque county, this state, where he married Martha Mollart, also a native of England, born in Staffordshire, and in 1882 came to this part of the state and settled in Sioux county, where he and his wife spent the remainder of their lives. She died on August 9, 1893, at the age of forty-nine years, and he survived for many years, his death occurring on April 14, 1914, he then being seventy-nine years of age. They were the parents of eight children, of whom Mrs. McArthur was the fourth in order of birth, the others being as follow: John R., who married Stella Moore and is living in Elgin township, this county; Mary A., unmarried, who continues to make her home on the old home place in Sioux county; Richard A., who died on June 4, 1913; Thomas W., who married Agnes Burrell and is living at Forestburg, South Dakota; Ralph, unmarried, who is living on the home place in Sioux county; Edward J., also living on the home place, and George W., who married Bessie Butler and is living in Sioux county.

Mr. and Mrs. McArthur have one daughter, Verna M., who on August 23, 1916, married Earl Chapman, of Sioux county, who is now managing the McArthur farm. The McArthurs are members of the Presbyterian

church and have ever given their earnest attention to good works in their home neighborhood. Mrs. McArthur and Mrs. Chapman are members of the Daughters of Ceres and take a warm interest in the affairs of that organization, as well as to the general social activities of the community in which they live. Mr. McArthur is a Republican, but has not been included in the office-seeking class.

ELKANAH TAYLOR.

Elkanah Taylor, one of the pioneers of Plymouth county, the first permanent settler of Prestion township, former trustee of that township and one of the best-known farmers of the northwestern part of the county, is a native of Massachusetts, born in Hampden county, February 24, 1836, son of the Rev. William and Lucy (Ring) Taylor, both natives of that same state, the former born in January, 1810, and the latter in April, 1815, whose last days were spent in Illinois.

Rev. William Taylor was a minister of the Methodist Episcopal church and for many years preached in the East, or until bronchial trouble developed, compelling him to give up pulpit work, after which, in 1856, he disposed of his interests in Massachusetts and came West, believing that life on a farm would bring him relief. He located with his family in Jo Daviess county, Illinois, and there bought a farm of eighty acres, on which he established his home, later selling the same and buying a smaller place of forty acres. There his wife died in 1875 and thereafter he made his home with his several children, being an occasional visitor in the pioneer home of his son, the subject of this sketch, who, meanwhile had settled in this county. The Rev. William Taylor died in Illinois in the fall of 1883. To him and his wife had been born six children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the first-born, the others being as follow: Sarah, who married Jonathan Pitcher, who, with his wife, became an early settler of this county, later moving to Kansas, where both he and his wife spent their last days, the latter's death occurring in August, 1911; Eliza, who married David Farley, a farmer, of Jo Daviess county, Illinois, former treasurer of that county, who later became an inspector in the stock yards at Chicago, in which city both he and his wife spent their last days, the death of the latter occurring in 1909; Clara, who married J. H. Moore, a farmer, now living in the vicinity of Mound Valley, Kansas; Edward, who died in infancy, and Charles, who is now a farmer in Brazoria county, Texas. For many years Charles Taylor was engaged in the railway

service, starting in as a telegraph operator and being advanced to the post of train dispatcher, then chief dispatcher and then to the position of road master, from which he some time ago retired and went to work a ranch in Texas, for a party in Illinois. He married Abbie Cooper.

Elkanah Taylor received his schooling in Massachusetts and was about twenty years of age when he moved with his parents to Illinois. There he helped his father on the farm for about three years, at the end of which time, in 1860, he joined a party en route to California and drove through to that state by ox-team. Upon arriving in California Mr. Taylor worked in lumber camps and on a ranch for a time and then went up into the gold fields of British Columbia and staked a claim in the immediate vicinity of what afterward developed into the great Cariboo mines, remaining there for two years, during the years 1862-63. Though he found some gold Mr. Taylor's success was not such as to encourage him to continue his quest for gold, for he really lost money in the quest, and he then proceeded to the Puget Sound country, where for several years he was engaged working in the great lumber camps of that region. In 1868 he received word that his father had suffered a stroke of paralysis and he returned, via the Isthmus of Panama, to Illinois, where he remained for a couple of years looking after his father's farm. He then, in 1870, became attracted by the good word going out from this part of the country and determined to settle in this section of Iowa. With that end in view in the spring of that year he came to Plymouth county and pre-empted a quarter of a section in section 26 of Preston township, being thus among the very earliest settlers of that township and the first to become a permanent resident, for those who had preceded him there became discouraged and left. Mr. Taylor drove up here and upon securing his pre-emption built a little shack, ten by twelve feet in dimensions, and there settled down to develop his quarter section. He got some of his land broke that year and during the succeeding year had a small crop of corn. In the fall of 1871 he returned to Illinois and came back in March, 1873, to this county, bringing back with him horses, a wagon, additional sets of harness and some other essential supplies. He planted a grove of cottonwood, maple, elm and ash, and also planted an orchard and soon had his place in condition for cultivation. As his plans worked out he rented additional land and farmed on the same. He bought a small frame house which he moved to his place and after his marriage in 1895 remodeled and added to the same, that house serving as a residence until he built his present two-story house in 1904. In 1912 he built a new barn, fifty-six by sixty feet, and his other farm build-

ings, are in keeping with the same. Mr. Taylor long ago bought an additional "forty" adjoining his original quarter section and he and his sons are now farming two hundred acres, in addition to which they give attention to the raising of live stock, having about forty head of cattle and one hundred and twenty-five head of Tamworth hogs. Mr. Taylor is a Republican and gives a good citizen's attention to local political affairs. During the early days he served for one year as assessor of Preston township and also served for one year as trustee of Preston township. Despite the fact that Mr. Taylor is now past eighty years of age, he retains to a remarkable degree his physical and mental vigor and is a hale and hearty man.

In October, 1895, Elkanah Taylor was united in marriage to Anna Wainwright, who was born in Illinois and to this union two sons have been born, Victor and William, who are now working the home farm.

WILLIAM R. NULL.

William R. Null, one of the most substantial retired farmers of Elgin township, is a native of Germany, but has been a resident of this country since he was six years of age. He was born in the Prussian province of Hanover on July 31, 1850, son of John and Margaret (Grumm) Null, also native Hanoverians, the former of whom was a weaver by trade, who came to the United States in 1856, landing at the port of New Orleans and proceeding thence up the river to St. Louis, from which point they went over into Illinois and rented land in the vicinity of Dixon, in that state, remaining there until 1865, in which year they came to Iowa and bought a farm in the neighborhood of Monticello, where they spent the remainder of their lives. John Null and his wife were members of the Lutheran church and their children were reared in that faith. There were seven of these children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the fourth in order of birth, the others being as follow: John, deceased; Annie, who was drowned while the family was proceeding up the Mississippi river to St. Louis upon their arrival in this country; Albert, deceased; Gerd, who is farming the old home place near Monticello; Henry, who also continues to make his home in that vicinity, and Catherine, who married Charles Vanderhan and lives at Platte, South Dakota.

William R. Null was but six years of age when he came to this country with his parents. He was fifteen when the family moved to Iowa and he

grew to manhood on the home farm in the vicinity of Monticello, where he remained until 1872, when he struck out for himself and came into this part of the state with a view to getting a farm of his own on the lands that then were being opened to settlement in Plymouth county. Upon coming to this county he bought a tract of eighty acres in section 19 of Elgin township and proceeded to develop and improve the same. After his marriage two years later he established his home on that farm and ever since has lived there, long having been regarded as one of the most substantial pioneer farmers of that part of the county. In common with all pioneers in this section of the state, Mr. Null encountered numerous difficulties in the early days of his settlement here, but he overcame these and gradually developed a fine farm, which he added to as time passed until now he is the owner of two hundred and seventy-two acres, all of which is well improved. He has given proper attention to the raising of live stock also and in the latter line, as well as in his general farming, has done very well. Mr. Null is an independent voter and has served the public in the capacity of member of the school board, having done much for the development of the schools in his neighborhood in early days. For some years past Mr. Null has lived practically retired from the active labors of the farm, the management of the home place now being in the hands of his son, William Null, one of the progressive young farmers of that neighborhood.

On September 19, 1874, William R. Null was united in marriage to Etta Frerichs, also a native Hanoverian, who came to this country with her parents, Falkert Frerichs and wife, the family settling first at Dixon, Illinois, and later coming to Iowa and settling on a farm in Preston township, this county, back in pioneer days, and to this union eleven children were born, namely: Frank, who married Susanna Hartley and is now engaged in the agricultural implement business at Craig; John, who married Mary Monke and is farming in the vicinity of Slayton, Minnesota; Fred, who received his medical education in the Sioux City Medical College, married Edith Empey and is now practicing his profession at Ireton, in the neighboring county of Sioux; Gerd, who married Annie Hartley and is now operating an elevator at Craig; Margaret, at home; William, who is farming the home place; George, who married Retta Hartley and is farming in Preston township; Albert, who married Grace McDougall and is living at Beardsford, South Dakota; Kate, who married Edward Champion and is living at Mapleton, this state, and Lillian, who is at home. The mother of these children died on January 30, 1916, and is buried in the cemetery at Le Mars. Mr. Null was reared in the faith of the Lutheran church and remained affiliated with

that church until 1878, in which year he transferred his connection to the Methodist Episcopal church and has ever since been an active worker in the same.

PETER MACKINNON.

Peter Mackinnon, one of Plymouth county's pioneers, the proprietor of a farm in Johnson township and former trustee of that township, is a native of Canada, but has been a resident of this country since he was twenty-one years of age and of Plymouth county since the spring of 1871. He was born on a farm about forty miles south of the city of Quebec on December 20, 1848.

Reared on the home farm in Canada, Peter Mackinnon received his schooling in the schools of that neighborhood and remained at home until he was twenty-one years of age. In the spring of 1871 he came to Iowa and proceeded to Plymouth county, which then was beginning to be settled, and pre-empted a tract of eighty acres in section 14 of Johnson township, paying for the same two dollars and fifty cents an acre. There he put up a small frame house, siding the same with sod and roofing it with a thatch of hay and by fall had proved his pre-emption. He then entered a claim to an eighty-acre homestead, the west half of the southwest quarter of section 2 of Johnson township, hitched his team of horses to his little shack of a house and hauled the same across the prairie to his homestead site and there settled, starting in to develop and improve the same. Mr. Mackinnon lost little time in breaking the sod on his two eighties and during the second year of his residence in Johnson township had about one hundred and twenty bushels of wheat. In the spring of 1872 he planted a row of trees on the west side of his homestead tract and later added to the same until he had a grove of about five acres, now an attractive feature of his place. At that time there were no established roads throughout that part of the county and Mr. Mackinnon helped to survey some of the early roads hereabout. About four years after locating here Mr. Mackinnon sold his original tract of eighty acres in section 14 and bought a tract of eighty acres in section 3, adjoining his homestead tract on the west, and shortly afterward moved his house from the homestead to the latter tract. In the meantime, before his marriage in 1883, he had improved the house, remodeling the same into more comfortable shape, and in 1888 built the two-story frame house, which has since served as a residence. His barns and other farm buildings are well built, and he

now has a well-improved place. In addition to his farming Mr. Mackinnon has given attention to the raising of live stock and has a herd of about twenty-five or thirty Aberdeen-Angus cattle, and seventy-five or one hundred head of Chester White hogs. Though approaching his seventieth year, Mr. Mackinnon continues to assist in the labors of the farm. He is a Republican and for some years served as trustee of Johnson township and also for years as school director in his local school district.

In 1883 Peter Mackinnon was united in marriage to Emma Gill, and to this union three children have been born, Maude, Kenneth and Sterling, all of whom are at home. For several years Miss Maude Mackinnon was engaged in teaching school in this county. Kenneth Mackinnon is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

THOMAS MILLER.

Thomas Miller, one of the successful and prominent farmers and stockmen of Remsen township, Plymouth county, was born in Ontario, Canada, on June 14, 1864, the son of Thomas and Margaret (Scott) Miller.

Thomas and Margaret (Scott) Miller were born in Scotland and there they received their education in the public schools and grew to maturity. They came to Canada, single and there they were married. As a young man, in his native land, Thomas Miller learned the carpenter trade, at which he continued to work while living in the land of his birth. After leaving his home in Scotland and coming to America, Thomas Miller located in Ontario, Canada, where he continued at his trade until 1865, when he removed to Sanilac county, Michigan, and there, in connection with his work as a carpenter, he engaged in farming. The family remained residents of that county until 1892, when the father decided to come to Iowa. Here he located on a farm in section 23, Remsen township, Plymouth county, and engaged in general farming and stock raising for several years, when he moved to Adaville, and later to Marcus, where he died in 1907. The widow survived him two years, dying in 1909.

Thomas and Margaret (Scott) Miller, were active members of the Presbyterian church, and always took much interest in all church work. They were prominent in the social and the religious life of the community, where they were held in the highest esteem, by all who knew them. They were most estimable people, and had much to do with the improvement of the

moral and the social life of the districts in which they lived. They were the parents of the following children: William, Mary Ann, Joseph, Alexander, Rachel, Thomas, Robert and Edith. William is deceased; Mary Ann lives in Tama county, Iowa; Joseph, who learned the carpenter trade, at which he is now engaged at south Sioux City; Thomas is the subject of this sketch; Alexander is also a carpenter and is now engaged in that work, near Marcus; Rachel is the wife of Frank Wagner and lives in Remsen township, where Mr. Wagner is engaged in general farming and stock raising, and Robert, who learned the carpenter trade, is engaged in that work, in connection with general farming and stock raising, in Cherokee county, Iowa; Edith is a resident of Black Hawk county. Thomas Miller, the father, was identified with the Republican party and took an active interest in local affairs, and being a man of ability and good judgment, his advice and support were often sought on matters pertaining to the affairs of the township and the county.

Thomas Miller, the subject of this sketch, received a common school education in the local schools of Michigan, where he had been taken by his parents, when he was but one year old. There he grew to manhood and learned the carpenter trade. He remained at home until he was twenty-four years of age, and came to Iowa with his parents. On February 9, 1898, he was united in marriage to Ann L. McCoustland, of Adams county, Wisconsin, and the daughter of Thomas and Mary (Lyons) McCoustland, both of whom were natives of County Tyrone, Ireland, and there they received their meager education in the public schools and grew to maturity. The father learned the weaver trade, at which he worked in his native land. In 1854 he decided to come to America, and on his arrival in the United States, he came direct to Wisconsin, where he located in Adams county. He discontinued his work as a weaver, on coming to this country, and engaged in farming. He obtained a farm in Adams county, and there he and his family lived for eighteen years. They then left their home in Wisconsin and came to Iowa, where the family resided in Winneshiek county for nine years, and then in the fall of 1881, came to Plymouth county and purchased a farm in section 27, Remsen township. The tract at that time was wild prairie and required much work to break the tough prairie sod and prepare the land for cultivation. It was here that Mr. McCoustland devoted the rest of his life to the task of developing his farm, and later to its cultivation and improvement. He was born on April 22, 1827, and is still living. The wife died in 1899, at the age of sixty-two years. Mr. McCoustland is a member of the Presbyterian church and she was a member of the Episcopal church.

They were the parents of six children, two of whom are now living, Mrs. Thomas Miller and Elizabeth, who lives in Cherokee county. Mr. and Mrs. McCoustland were of that noble Scotch-Irish stock, that are among our best citizens.

Thomas and Anna L. Miller are the parents of six children as follow: Earl Thomas, Mabel L., Harvey W., Harold R., Florence E., and Marion. Mr. and Mrs. Miller have given their children a good common-school education. Since their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Miller have lived on the old home place of Mrs. Miller's father, which they now own and which they have increased from one hundred and twenty to two hundred acres, all of which is in section 27. They have made many improvements, among which, may be mentioned, the remodeling of the house, which has been made modern; the building of two barns, one thirty-two by fifty feet and the other fifty-two by fifty-six feet, in addition to a large hog barn and a garage. The farm has been developed to a high state of cultivation and is regarded as one of the best in the township. Mr. Miller is engaged in general farming and stock raising, in which he is most successful. He keeps a good grade of Short-horn and Hereford cattle and Duroc-Jersey hogs, and also has many fine Rhode Island Red chickens. Mr. Miller is identified with the Republican party and has long taken an active interest in the civic life of the township as well as the county.

CHRISTIAN BERNER.

The late Christian Berner, who died at his home in Plymouth township in 1897, was one of the best-known and most progressive farmers of that part of the county. He was born at Spring Rock, in Jackson county, this state, June 7, 1863, son of Gottlieb and Catherine (Bubeck) Berner, natives of Germany, whose last days were spent in this county, honored and respected pioneers of the county.

Gottlieb Berner was born in Germany and as a young man came to this country, working in New York for some time before coming out West and settling in Iowa. Upon coming to this state he settled in Jackson county, where he married and where he made his home on a farm until 1876, in which year he moved with his family over to Plymouth county and settled on a farm in Plymouth township, four miles southeast of Merrill, where he and his wife spent the remainder of their lives, his death occurring at the age of sixty-seven years and hers at the age of sixty-two. They were members

of the United Evangelical church and their children were reared in that faith. There were seven of these children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the third in order of birth, the others being as follow: Jacob, a well-known retired farmer, of Merrill; Louisa, who married George Zimmerman, a successful farmer of Plymouth township; Gottlieb E., a farmer and stockman of Stanton township; Dr. William F. Berner, now living retired on a ranch at Bellefourche, South Dakota; Mary, wife of H. H. Schindel, of Plymouth township, and Daniel H., who married Matilda Debbert and is now living at Pomona, California.

Christian Berner was thirteen years of age when his parents came to Plymouth county and his schooling was completed at Melburn, the "vanished village," first county seat of Plymouth county. From the days of his boyhood he was a valued assistant to his father in the labors of developing and improving the home farm in Plymouth township and remained on the home place until his marriage in the spring of 1889, when he moved to the farm on which his widow still makes her home and where he spent the rest of his life, his death occurring on May 5, 1897. Upon starting out for himself Mr. Berner first bought a tract of eighty acres in section 23 of Plymouth township, paying for the same seventeen dollars an acre, and as he prospered in his farming operations added an adjoining "forty" and at the time of his death was the owner of a well-kept and profitably cultivated farm of one hundred and twenty acres and was doing very well.

On March 12, 1889, Christian Berner was united in marriage to Catherine Hoffman, who was born at Florence Station, in Stephenson county, Illinois, daughter of Jacob and Anna (Heilman) Hoffman, natives of Germany, who came to this country and settled in Stephenson county, Illinois, where they spent the remainder of their lives. Jacob Hoffman and his wife were the parents of five children, of whom Mrs. Berner was the fifth in order of birth, the others being as follow: Lizzie, who married Adam Christman and lives at Shannon, Illinois; Mary, who married Lewis Sheffel and lives at Freeport, Illinois; John, a well-known farmer of Union township, this county, a biographical sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this volume, and Lewis J., also a resident of this county, a farmer of Stanton township, a biographical sketch of whom also is presented elsewhere in this volume.

To Christian and Catherine (Hoffman) Berner four children were born, namely: Dudelphia, who married R. C. Knapp; Lavon, who died in 1894; Haliver, who is a student in the dental school of the Iowa State University, and Ralph, who is managing the home farm for his mother. The Berners have a very pleasant home and have ever taken a proper part in the work of

promoting all good causes in that neighborhood. They are members of the United Evangelical church and take a warm interest in the affairs of the same. The late Christian Berner was a Republican and ever gave a good citizen's attention to the political affairs of his home county, but was not a seeker after public office.

GERD OSTERBUHR.

Gerd Osterbuhr, one of Grant township's well-known and well-to-do farmers, was born in Jones county, this state, but has lived in Plymouth county since he was three years of age. He was born on June 6, 1869, son of Ockke and Mary (Hartman) Osterbuhr, natives of Germany, who became pioneers of Plymouth county and who are still living here.

Ockke Osterbuhr grew up to the life of the farm in his native land and remained there until 1865, when he came to this country and settled at Dixon, Illinois, in the neighborhood of which place he worked as a farm hand for three years, at the end of which time he married and came with his bride to Iowa, settling in Jones county, where he rented a farm for three years, or until 1872, in which year he came over to Plymouth county and threw in his lot with that of the pioneers of this section of the state. Upon coming here Ockke Osterbuhr bought a tract of one hundred and sixty acres in section 24 of Grant township and there established his home. When the grasshopper invasion came a few years later he suffered in common with the other pioneers, but he "stuck it out" and in time began to prosper. As he prospered he added to his land holdings until he became the owner of a fine farm of four hundred and eighty acres and had long since supplanted the little "shack" and the straw barn which he had put up upon taking possession of his raw prairie farm by a fine residence and an excellent set of farm buildings. In 1906 Ockke Osterbuhr retired from the active labors of the farm, though he and his wife continue to make their home on the old home place, where they are very comfortably situated. To him and his wife eight children were born, six of whom are still living, those besides the subject of this sketch being William, Otto, Fred, Elizabeth and Anna.

Gerd Osterbuhr was but three years of age when his parents came to this county and he grew to manhood on the home farm in Grant township, receiving his schooling in the pioneer schools of that neighborhood, and from boyhood was a valued assistant to his father in the labors of the home farm. He continued farming with his father until his marriage in the spring of

AUGUST BINNEBOESE.

August Binneboese, one of the well-known and successful farmers of Lincoln township, Plymouth county, was born in Pomerania, Germany, on January 27, 1848, being the son of August and Wilhelmina (Krause) Binneboese.

August and Wilhelmina Binneboese were also natives of Germany, and there received their education in the public schools and there grew to manhood and womanhood and were married. It was there that their children were born, and there Mr. Binneboese continued to live until the time of his death many years ago. He was a laborer, and was held in the highest regard and esteem by all who knew him. He and Mrs. Binneboese were the parents of the following children: August, the subject of this sketch; Charles, now a resident of Minnesota, and John, who resides in Leeds, Iowa. Some years after the death of her husband, Wilhelmina Binneboese was united in marriage to William Kowalke. In 1879 they decided to come to America, and after their arrival in the port of New York, they came direct to Chicago, Illinois, where they remained for a short time, after which they located in Kendall county, Illinois, where they remained for one year. They then left their home in Kendall county and came to Iowa, locating in Plymouth county and purchased land in section 11, Lincoln township, and here they made their home until the time of their deaths, some years ago. To William and Wilhelmina Kowalke were born four children as follow: Amelia, Wilhelmina, Argentine and Albert.

August Binneboese received his education in the public schools of Germany and there he grew to manhood, and as a young man entered the army and became a trained soldier. He later took an active part in the German-French War and saw much active service.

In 1880 August Binneboese was united in marriage to Amelia Verner, and to this union the following children were born, William, Mary, Albert, Clara, John, Minnie and Wende. Mr. and Mrs. Binneboese are active members of the Lutheran church and have long been active in the social and the religious life of the community. They are held in the highest regard and respect by the people of the township.

After coming to the United States, Mr. Binneboese came to Iowa and located in Lincoln township, obtaining land, which he developed and improved, and engaged in general farming and stock raising, in which he became most successful. He is now the owner of six hundred acres of the



ATGUST BINNEBOESE AND FAMILY

best of land, all of which is under high cultivation and well improved. His land is all located in Lincoln township, in sections 10, 11 and 14.

August Binneboese has always taken an active interest in local affairs and was one of the organizers of the local church. He has assisted his children in starting for themselves and today is recognized as one of the substantial and prominent men of the community.

JOHN HENTGES.

John Hentges, deceased, prominent pioneer merchant of Le Mars, was born in Bissen, Grand Duchy of Luxemburg, Europe, June 20, 1839, and died January 22, 1911, aged seventy-two years.

At the age of twenty-four, most of which time was spent in his own country and France, John Hentges with his brother, Nicholas, decided to come to America, the land of opportunity and promise. They settled in Chicago in 1863 where they lived for several years and from there went to Caledonia, Minnesota. In 1870 they joined the general movement further West and bought land in Plymouth county, Iowa, engaging in farming and stock raising with Mr. Burg, nine miles southeast of Le Mars.

On January 19, 1871, Mr. Hentges was united in marriage to Miss Mary Burg, of Caledonia, Minnesota. Eleven children were born to the union, they are Mrs. Dana N. Hoffman, John, Edward, Cecelia, Clara, Frank, Joseph, Stephen, Leonard, Clementine and Romane, all of whom are living.

In 1874 Mr. Hentges formed a partnership with Mr. M. Burg and engaged in clothing and general merchandise in Le Mars, under the firm name of Burg & Hentges. The business prospered, due to the firm's reputation for square dealing, honest merchandising and the access they had to a large trade territory, which at that time extended as far north as Sioux Falls and east and south to Cherokee and Kingsley. They soon outgrew their quarters and in 1881 bought what was then known as the Flint block on corner of Main and Sixth streets. The property consisted of two store rooms, twenty-five by one hundred feet, the second floor being used for offices. The dry goods occupied one room and clothing and shoes the other.

In 1894 the partnership was dissolved, Mr. Hentges continuing the clothing and shoes, and Mr. Burg the dry goods. The two firms operate today under names of Hentges Clothing Company and M. Burg.

Branch stores were opened in Yankton, South Dakota, in 1902; Watertown, South Dakota, 1910, and Alton, Iowa, in 1912. In 1914 an exclusive shoe store was also opened in Le Mars, the shoes formerly having been carried with the clothing, but lack of room made this move necessary. In 1916 a tailoring and French dry cleaning establishment was also added to this clothing department.

Besides his interest in the mercantile lines, Mr. Hentges also acquired land holdings in Iowa and South Dakota and these together with the stores, are managed by the seven sons, some of the eldest of whom had already at an earlier date, assisted in taking an active interest in the business, at the time Mr. Hentges decided to retire.

Mrs. Hentges, while spending the winter in Los Angeles, California, died on March 9, 1912, about a year after the death of her husband.

Mr. and Mrs. Hentges identified themselves with the early development of Plymouth county and Le Mars, taking an active interest in business, religious and social activities of the community. Pioneering in this new country carried with it the usual hardships, disappointments and sacrifices that go hand in hand with the building up of a new country, but it failed to shake their faith in this garden spot of Iowa, for they could foresee the possibilities of the state.

The Hentges Clothing Company today, in its modern and newly equipped stores, enjoys the enviable reputation for good and honest merchandising. Its founder, John Hentges, strived for this in the very beginning, realizing its desirability as a valuable asset so necessary to the success and future of any business.

THE JEFFERS FAMILY.

Among the pioneer families of Plymouth county, few have been more active in the work of developing the best interests of the county, and particularly that part of the same comprised in Johnson township, than has the Jeffers family, which has been prominently represented in the western part of the county since the year 1870.

The late Isaac Jeffers, who died at his home in Johnson township in 1898, was for thirteen years the trustee of that township and for many years the director of the school in his district. He was born in the state of New York on January 12, 1835, son of Alba and Phoebe Diana Jeffers, natives of that same state, the former born in 1812 and the latter in 1814, who became

early settlers of Plymouth county and here spent their last days. Alba Jeffers was a farmer in his native state and also was a stone mason. He took an active part in the public affairs of his home community in New York and had held county offices. Determined to seek a home for himself and family in the then new West he disposed of his interests in New York state and moved with his family to Wisconsin, where he remained for several years; at the end of which time he moved to eastern Iowa, remaining there until 1870, in which year he came to this county and entered a claim to a homestead tract of eighty acres in section 4 of Johnson township and there established his home, remaining there until his retirement from the active labors of the farm in 1884 and removal to Akron, where his last days were spent. After his death his widow returned to the old home place in Johnson township and there her death occurred in 1899. They were the parents of seven children, Isaac, Gusta, Mercy, Mary, Jane, Benjamin and Charles, all of whom are deceased save the last-named, who is now living at Freeport, Illinois.

Isaac Jeffers, first-born of the seven children of the pioneer couple above referred to, accompanied his parents when they came to Plymouth county in 1870 and he homesteaded a tract of eighty acres adjoining his father's homestead, in section 4 of Johnson township, moving the latter's house so that it covered the line dividing the two homesteads and thus served as a place of residence for proving up the two homestead claims. The spring following his arrival here he married and he and his wife continued to live in the homestead house, both families occupying it together, until about 1886, when he bought an additional tract of eighty acres, the north half of the northwest quarter of section 4 in that same township and on that erected a good frame house in which he established his home and where he spent the rest of his life, his death occurring in 1898. In his youth Isaac Jeffers had learned the trade of plasterer and mason and long after coming to this county followed those trades in addition to his work as a farmer, in this capacity helping to build many of the earlier buildings erected in this county and plastering practically every school house between that point and Sioux City. For many years he was school director in his home district and for thirteen years served as trustee of Johnson township, in that capacity rendering a valuable service in behalf of the growing community, so that at his death in 1898 there was expressed a general feeling of loss in the neighborhood, for he had been a useful citizen.

On April 29, 1872, the year after his arrival in this county, Isaac Jeffers was united in marriage to Mrs. Katherine (Fuller) Blanchard, who was born

in Washington county, New York, in 1842, daughter of Daniel and Mary (Racy) Fuller, the former a native of Connecticut and the latter of Plattsburg, New York. Daniel Fuller was a carpenter and in 1852 came to Iowa with his family and settled at Dubuque, where he worked at his trade until the fall of 1854, when he moved to Delaware county, this state, and bought a farm, which he began to improve. There he died two years later, in 1856, at the age of fifty-seven years. His widow remained there until 1870, in which year she disposed of her interests there and came to Plymouth county. Here she homesteaded a tract of eighty acres in section 10 of Johnson township, built a frame house and proceeded, with the aid of her sons, to develop the same, and there lived until she moved to Le Mars to make her home with her son, Frank Fuller, who was then sheriff of Plymouth county, and there she died in 1884, at the advanced age of eighty years. Daniel and Mary Fuller were the parents of ten children, John, David, Wallace, Daniel, Orison, Frank, Rachel, Mary, Katherine and Nancy. Both Frank Fuller and Wallace Fuller were veterans of the Civil War and each homesteaded a tract of one hundred and sixty acres upon coming to this county. Three other brothers of this family also served as soldiers of the Union army during the Civil War. Frank Fuller was the first justice of peace of Johnson township and served as sheriff of Plymouth county for one term.

Katherine Fuller was a young woman when she came West with her parents and she was married after coming to Iowa to William Blanchard, a bookkeeper, who later enlisted for service as a soldier in the Union army during the Civil War and in that service lost an arm. He later served for some time as recorder of Delaware county and in that county died. To him and his wife two children were born, Mattie and Lillian, the latter of whom died when eleven years of age. Mattie Blanchard married Marshall Mann and to that union six children were born, Lillian, William, Elmer, Albert, Pearly and Mamie (deceased). When her mother came over to Plymouth county in 1870, Mrs. Blanchard accompanied her and entered a claim to an eighty-acre homestead in Johnson township, which she proved up, and it was while thus engaged that she met and married her neighbor, Isaac Jeffers, in the spring of 1872. To that union five children were born, William, Newton (deceased), Orison, Frank and Anna. William Jeffers, who is now engaged in the work of the Holiness society at Sioux City, a prominent factor in the mission at that place, married Elvina Peterson and has one child, a son, William I. Orison Jeffers is unmarried and continues to make his home with his widowed mother in the old home in section 4 of Johnson township. In partnership with his brother, Frank, he is engaged in farming two hundred acres

in that township, eighty acres of which the brothers rent, and in addition to his general farming is largely engaged in the raising of live stock. Frank Jeffers, who is living on another part of the home farm, to the east of the old family residence occupied by Mrs. Jeffers and her son, Orison, and who is engaged in partnership with his brother in operating the place, married Margaret Burwell and has four children, Lillian, Pearl, Lambert and Lucile. Anna Jeffers married Ervin Boyer, a farmer, of Meade county, South Dakota, and has five children, Leslie, Ethel, Gladys Fay, Vera Fern and Mattie Evelyn.

WILLIAM LABAHN.

William LaBahn, one of Liberty township's most progressive young farmers, is a native of Germany, but has lived in this country since the days of his infancy. He was born on August 9, 1880, son of William and Louisa (Tege) LaBahn, also natives of Germany, whose last days were spent in this county.

The elder William LaBahn was a cabinet-maker by trade. He served his country as a soldier during the Franco-Prussian War and afterward married, continuing to make his home in his native land, working there at his trade, until the spring of 1881, when he came with his family to the United States. Upon his arrival in this country he settled at Brooklyn, New York, where he followed his trade for a period of nine months, at the end of which time he came to Iowa and settled at Remsen, in this county. After a residence of three months there he moved to Le Mars, where for seven years he worked at his trade and then started farming in Plymouth township, renting the John Smith farm of one hundred and twenty acres for two years, at the end of which time he rented a farm in Stanton township and there made his home for a year. He then moved back to Plymouth township and for four years rented the Held farm. By this time he had come to see his way clear to become a landowner and he then bought a farm of two hundred and forty acres in sections 20 and 21 in Johnson township, where he established his home and where he and his wife spent the remainder of their lives. Upon taking possession of that farm Mr. LaBahn proceeded to make many improvements, erected a new, two-story house with basement, a barn thirty-eight by thirty-eight feet, also complete water system, and in other ways improved the place up to standard. There William LaBahn died in 1911, at the age of sixty-five years. His widow survived him until February, 1915, she being

fifty-nine years of age at the time of her death. They were the parents of eleven children, William, Elizabeth, Fred, Louis, Frank, Edward, Clara, Walter, Alfred and two, Katherine and Theodore, who died in infancy. All are engaged in agriculture with the exception of four. Two are engaged in the automobile business at Merrill, Alfred and Ed, and Walter is in the army and Frank in business in Sioux City.

The junior William LaBahn was but an infant when his parents came to this country and he was seven or eight years of age when they moved onto the farm. He therefore was reared on the farm, receiving his elementary schooling in the rural schools. This he supplemented by a course in the Northwestern Normal School at Le Mars. He remained on the farm, a valued assistant to his father, until he was twenty-three years of age, when he began working on his own account, for a year in Le Mars. After his marriage in 1904 Mr. LaBahn rented a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Johnson township and there made his home for a couple of years, at the end of which time he rented a farm of two hundred and forty acres in Liberty township, remaining there for five years. He then bought the quarter section on which he is now living, in section 26 of Liberty township, near Perry creek, on the highway between Le Mars and Sioux City, not far from the village of Potosia, and there has made his home ever since, he and his family being pleasantly and comfortably situated. When Mr. LaBahn bought that place it was in a fair state of improvement, but he has added much in the way of improvements, including the erection of a fine new bank barn, twenty-four by twenty-six feet, with a full eight-foot basement. In addition to his general farming he has given considerable attention to the raising of live stock and has about one hundred head of hogs, besides an excellent herd of Shorthorn cattle. Mr. LaBahn is a Democrat and has given close attention to local civic affairs, having served the public in the capacity of road supervisor in his district and as a school director; also as director of consolidated school district of Liberty township, also serving as trustee in said township. He has taken an active part in general development work in his neighborhood and is now serving as president of lines 6 and 7 of the Hinton Telephone Company.

In 1904 William LaBahn was united in marriage to Anna Margaret Tapken, daughter of Fred and Amelia Tapken, and to this union four children have been born, Amelia, who died when two years and six months of age, and Lucile, Roy and Earl. Mr. and Mrs. LaBahn are members of the German Lutheran church and take a proper interest in church affairs, as well as in the general social activities of the community in which they live.

ADAM A. CLARKE.

Adam A. Clarke, one of Stanton township's progressive farmers and one of the best-known apiarists in the county, a native of England, has been a resident of Plymouth county since 1883. He was born at Ledbury, Herefordshire, England, June 10, 1852, second son of Adam and Emma (Clarke) also natives of Herefordshire, who were the parents of four children, two of whom, the subject of this sketch and his sister, Bessie, came to this country.

Upon completing his schooling, Adam A. Clarke was apprenticed to the grocery business, in Gloucester, at the end of which time he engaged as a traveling salesman for a London wholesale grocery house and was thus employed for thirteen years. He then made up his mind to come to America and to try the life of a prairie farmer. He had married the year before and he and his wife determined to make their home in this country. With that end in view they left England in 1883 and upon arriving in this country proceeded directly to Le Mars, Iowa, and located in Plymouth county. Upon arriving here Mr. Clarke bought a quarter section of land just east of the village of O'Leary and there he remained for five years, at the end of which time he sold that farm and bought the place of eighty acres in section 6 of Stanton township on which he is now living and where he ever since has made his home. In addition to his general farming, Mr. Clarke has long made a specialty of bee culture and is now recognized as one of the best authorities on the subject in this country. He started with one hive, believed to have been the first hive of bees brought to Plymouth county. He took an ardent interest in the work and presently had a well-equipped apiary, which he gradually has enlarged until now he has one hundred and ten hives of bees, which last year produced twelve thousand pounds of honey of a high quality. Mr. Clarke has long been recognized as an authority among apiarists and is a contributor to five different papers and magazines on the subject of bee culture. He has made a specialty of breeding queen bees, his stock being the pure-bred Italian bees, and last year he sold more than seven hundred queens, realizing from one dollar to five dollars for the same, calls for his queens coming from all parts of the United States and Canada and from far-away Switzerland.

In 1882, the year before his departure from England to this country, Adam A. Clarke was united in marriage to Martha Cook, who also was born at Wolverhampton, England, and to this union have been born ten children, six of whom are now living, namely: Florence, who married Frank Carley;

Mable Alice, who married E. Simons; Henry, Adam Ross, Charles Herbert, Irene and Edward James, another son, who died at the age of twenty-one years and the others of the children died in infancy. Mr. and Mrs. Clarke are members of the Episcopal church and take a warm interest in the affairs of the same. Mr. Clarke is a Republican and has ever given his close attention to the political affairs of his adopted country, but has never been a seeker after public office. He and his family have a pleasant home and take a proper part in the general social activities of the community in which they live, helpful in promoting all agencies having to do with the advancement of the common welfare.

ALBERT P. NOBLE.

Albert P. Noble, a well-known and successful farmer of Grant township, Plymouth county, was born in Clinton county, Iowa, on November 23, 1864, and is the son of E. J. and Jane A. Noble, both of whom were natives of the state of New York, and were there educated in the public schools. As a young man E. J. Noble came to Iowa in an early day and located in Clinton county, where he engaged in farming until 1874, when he came to Plymouth county and settled in Hungerford township. Here he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land which he later increased to three hundred and twenty acres. A number of years later he sold the farm and purchased the old A. E. Rea place, where he lived until the time of his death in 1908. The wife and mother died on May 14, 1886. They were the parents of twelve children, ten of whom are now living and four in this county: Mrs. Kate McDougall, Jennie, J. H. and Albert P.

Albert P. Noble received his education in the public schools of Hungerford township and was reared on the home farm, where as a lad and young man he assisted with the work. When he was twenty-one years of age he rented a farm and began farming for himself. In 1891 he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of the farm where he now lives, and which he later increased to two hundred and forty acres, all of which is under high cultivation and well improved. For the past few years Mr. Noble has farmed but one hundred acres of his place and rents the balance. He keeps a good grade of stock and has many fine cattle and hogs.

On September 12, 1896, Albert P. Noble was united in marriage to Orpha Millard, daughter of Andrew and Hannah E. (Taylor) Millard. To this union the following children were born: Nellie, Mabel, Charles,

Howard, Myrtle, Leia, Hollis, George, Clifford, Irene and Dale, all of whom are at home. The parents of Mrs. Noble were natives of Pennsylvania, the father having been born at Johnstown and the mother at Scranton, while Mrs. Noble was born in Grant township, Plymouth county, Iowa. When but a boy, the father moved with his parents to Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, where he grew to manhood and was married. He and his wife continued to live in that state until 1870, when they came to Plymouth county, having made the trip with an ox team. They at once took a homestead of eighty acres in Grant township, and there the father farmed until 1908, when he and his wife moved to Sidney, Nebraska, where the wife and mother died in July, 1909. Mr. and Mrs. Millard were the parents of seven children, only two of whom are in this county, Orpha A. and Guy.

Albert P. Noble has always taken an active interest in the affairs of the township and for a number of years served his district as school director and was for a time secretary of the Farmers Elevator at Craig, Iowa, and his advice is often sought in matters of public interest.

ADOLPH POPKEN.

The sturdy German has played a conspicuous role and has had a large part in the development of the state of Iowa. The seeds of their thrift and energy, the sturdiness of their race and the fervor of their religious belief, have been beneficially scattered broadcast throughout the state. A representative of this race, Adolph Popken, who has devoted much of his active life to agricultural pursuits in Plymouth county, was born in Oldenburg, Germany, on October 5, 1875, the son of Gerhard and Hannah (Johnson) Popken.

Gerhard and Hannah (Johnson) Popken were also natives of Germany, and there they were educated in the public schools, were married, and in that country their children were born and there the parents died some years ago. They were active members of the German Lutheran church and were prominent in all church work. The father, who was a drayman, was one of the worthy citizens of his home district. He and his wife were the parents of four children, George, Dena, Helena and Adolph. George is a resident of Brunsville, Iowa; Dena is the wife of John Enken, of Le Mars; Helena is the wife of Jacob Cordes, of Danforth, Illinois.

Adolph Popken attended the public schools in Germany, where he resided

until he was fourteen years of age, when in 1889, he decided to come to America. On his arrival in the United States, he at once came to Danforth, Illinois, where he worked as a farm hand for two years, after which he came to Plymouth county. Here he worked in Washington township for one year, and then for one year he rented land in Grant township. On October 22, 1902, he was united in marriage to Clara Harm Kruse, a native of Grundy county, Iowa, and the daughter of Harm H. and Antje (Schmidt) Kruse. Her parents were both natives of Germany and later as young man and woman, came to the United States, in 1866. They located in Ackley, Iowa, and were there married. In 1885 they came to Plymouth county, where they purchased land in section 19, Grant township. The tract at that time was all wild land, and was for the most part undeveloped. A small house and stable were erected, and here they established their home. The farm was later developed and more substantial buildings erected, and here Mr. Kruse engaged in general farming until the time of his death on December 12, 1894. As a farmer and stockman he was most successful, and at the time of his death, he was the owner of six hundred and forty acres of excellent land, all of which was under cultivation and well improved. Since the death of her husband, Mrs. Kruse has made her home on the old homestead. She is an estimable lady and she and her late husband had many friends throughout the county. They were active members of the German Lutheran church of Preston township, and during their active life, took much interest in all church work.

Harm H. and Antje Kruse were the parents of the following children: Dick, John, Harm, Hilka, Anna, Tena, Clara. Dick is a successful farmer of Washington township and is married to Kathrena Frerichs; John married Hannah Reemts and is engaged in farming in Washington township; Harm H. married Annie Nannen, and is engaged in farming in Grant township; Annie is the wife of Herman Frerichs, a well-known farmer of Grant township; Tena is the wife of H. J. Mammen, of Grant township, and Clara is the wife of Adolph Popken.

To Adolph and Clara Popken have been born seven children, Dora, Albert, Alma, Clara, Emma, Della and Hilda, all of whom are at home with the parents. For eleven years after his marriage, Mr. Popken rented the old Kruse homestead, and is now the owner of one hundred and sixty acres of the place. In 1914 he built the present modern house, in which are installed a furnace, lights and running water. In addition to the house, he has made many other valuable improvements on the place. He is engaged in general

farming and stock raising, and keeps many fine Shorthorn cattle, mixed hogs and excellent draft horses.

Adolph Popken has always taken an active interest in local affairs, and has much to do with the civic life of the township. He and his wife are members of the Lutheran church and are held in the highest regard by all who know them.

LOUIS J. WINTERFELD.

Grant township, Plymouth county, has many men who have won distinction as farmers and stockmen. Among the number who have met with success in this line of work is Louis J. Winterfeld who was born in Clayton county, Iowa, on August 2, 1871, the son of John and Fredericka (Weinraben) Winterfeld.

John and Fredericka Winterfeld were natives of Germany, the former having come to the United States with his mother and the latter came with her father, the father of the former and the mother of the latter having died in the fatherland. They located in Clayton township and there John Winterfeld and Fredericka Weinraben were united in marriage and there they continued to reside for some years, engaged in farming. In 1874, when the son Louis was three years of age, the father came to Plymouth county, where he purchased a section of land in section 7, Grant township, and in 1879 he brought his family to the county. He built a substantial house and other buildings on the southeast quarter of the place and engaged in general farming and stock raising until 1900, when he retired from the farm and moved to Le Mars, where he died at the age of seventy-eight years. The widow is still living in her comfortable home in that city. They were members of the German Lutheran church and during their younger days took much interest in all church work. They were the parents of the following children: Lizzie, John, August, Henry, Caroline, Louis J., Emma, Albert and Matilda. Lizzie is the wife of Frank Schmitz, of Minneapolis, Minnesota; August and Henry are residents of Sioux county, Iowa; Caroline married George Renlschlen of Sioux county, Iowa; Emma is single and lives at Marcus, Iowa; Albert is a successful farmer of Grant township, and is now serving as trustee of the township, and Matilda is the wife of Arnold Lenth and lives at Marcus.

Louis J. Winterfeld attended the home school in his township, and in the year 1900 engaged in farming for himself on the home place, on the northwest quarter of the old homestead. There he engaged in general farm-

ing for two years, when he went to his own farm, where he has since remained. He now owns two hundred and thirteen acres of the farm and has made all of the present improvements. His comfortable house he built in 1915 at a cost of four thousand five hundred dollars, and is one of the finest in the township. He is engaged in general farming and stock raising and keeps some fine cattle and hogs. Today he is recognized as one of the substantial men of the township and has many friends throughout the county. He is well informed and has always taken much interest in local affairs and has served as a member of the board of school directors of his district. He and his wife are active members of the German Lutheran church and are held in the highest regard throughout the county.

In 1903 Louis J. Winterfeld was united in marriage to Alving Baack of Sioux county, Iowa, and to this union one child, Ethel, was born. Mrs. Winterfeld died in 1905 and in 1908 Mr. Winterfeld was married to Bertha Baack, a sister of Alving Winterfeld and to this union four children have been born as follow: Arthur, Lluella, Erna and Nora.

For some years Mr. Winterfeld was a salesman for the Champion silo, manufactured at Des Moines, Iowa, but the greater part of his life has been devoted to his interests on the farm and with his stock. His home, which is nicely situated on his excellent farm, is one of the ideal places in the county, and here he and his family enjoy many of the pleasures of country life. Both Mr. and Mrs. Winterfeld have devoted much of their time to the interests of their family and to the betterment of the educational, moral and social conditions of the district in which they live, and where they are held in high regard.

GEORGE DRAFT LUCE.

Of the many successful farmers and stockmen of Plymouth county, may well be mentioned in this work George Draft Luce, of Perry township, who was born at Sixth and Water streets, Sioux City, Iowa, on October 15, 1864, and is the son of Bartlett and Louisa (Menzemer) Luce, natives of Farmington, Maine, and Galena, Illinois, respectively.

Bartlett Luce received his education in the schools of Maine, and as a lad learned the blacksmith trade, which he followed during his residence in that state. When yet a young man he came to Galena, where he engaged in his trade for some years. Here he was united in marriage to Louisa Menzemer, and here their eldest child was born. He and his wife decided

later to locate in Iowa, and with their child, two yoke of oxen and two prairie schooners, they started for Sioux City, where Mr. Luce landed with two cents in money. He at once traded his oxen for an old log blacksmith shop, and established himself in business. Here he engaged in his work for a number of years, but later came to Plymouth county. He purchased two hundred and forty acres of land of the railroad company in Hungerford township, and took a tree claim of eighty acres and a pre-emption of eighty. He traded a pair of ponies to Owen Creighton, for his right in the tree claim. On the tract of two hundred and forty acres he built a good one and one-half-story frame house and erected other substantial buildings. Here he engaged in general farming and stock raising for twenty years, when he retired to Leeds, where he died in 1913, at the age of eighty-three years. The widow is still living at the home in Leeds, at an advanced age.

Bartlett and Louisa Luce were the parents of eight children, Fred, Harry, George Draft, Jennie, William, Bartlett, Louisa and Clara. Bartlett and Louisa were twins and were named for their parents; Fred lives in Chicago; Harry is a detective in Sioux City; Jennie is the widow of George Rode-maker, and lives in South Dakota. William, Bartlett and Louisa are now deceased, the latter having died in infancy; William died at the age of thirty-two and Bartlett at the age of thirty; Clara is the wife of Peter Hanson, and lives at Bolta, Montana.

George Draft Luce received his education in the schools of Sioux City and in Hungerford township, and assisted his father with the work on the farm, until he was twenty-one years of age, at which time he worked as a farm hand for others for a time. In 1892 he engaged in farming for himself on a rented farm in Hungerford township, where he remained for two years, after which he rented a farm in Woodbury county for a year. He then purchased one hundred and sixty acres in Perry township, where he now lives. The place at that time was partly developed, but the only improvements were a "shack" house and a small barn. Mr. Luce had but three hundred dollars with which to pay for the place when he made the purchase, and for the first five years he had a most difficult time to meet the interest on the balance. He and his wife worked hard to meet the incumbrance on the farm, and put up no new buildings until the place was paid for. In 1905 they built a modern house, with every convenience, and in 1910 the new bank barn, thirty-four by fifty feet, with a full eight-foot basement, was built. In the barn, Mr. Luce is able to house eighteen horses and thirteen cows, and there is a hay capacity of seventy-five tons. The horse part of the barn is floored with plank and the cow part with concrete, with individual stanchions.

The barn is nicely arranged for feeding, and is lighted with acetylene, the same as the house. The hog house, sixteen by sixty-four feet, is built with a bank, and mostly constructed with concrete, with a storage room above for feed. He cultivates from seventy to one acres of corn each year, the balance of the place being in alfalfa and pasture. In addition to the grain that he raises, he is required each year to buy a large amount.

In 1891 George Draft Luce was united in marriage to Kate M. Woolworth, the daughter of Harvey and Dortha Woolworth, and to this union three children have been born, Rosie, who died at the age of one and one-half years; Ernest and Nora, both of whom are at home. Mrs. Luce is an active member of the United Evangelical Lutheran church. They are prominent in the community in which they live and are held in the highest regard and esteem by all who know them. Their lives have been active ones and they have met with much success. They are devoted to the interests of their children, and their home is one of the most substantial in the township. The home farm, for which Mr. Luce paid twenty-two dollars and sixty cents per acre, is now valued at two hundred dollars per acre, it being one of the most highly-developed and well-improved farms in the county.

Politically, Mr. Luce is identified with the Democratic party, and has always taken an active interest in local affairs. For six years, he served as trustee of his township, and for eight years he served as assessor and was for one term director of his school district. He is a member of the Reliance Lodge No. 533, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, at Leeds. He has served his lodge in the various offices and is now a past noble grand.

MICHAEL JOSEPH TRACY.

The little island of Ireland has given to the United States many of her sons and daughters who have become prominent in the various vocations of life. The greater number of those who have become citizens of this country, have come here with the determination of winning success. We find them meeting with success in the professions, in the trades and as tillers of the soil. Many of our most successful and patriotic citizens are natives of that country. Among the number who won success as farmers in Perry township, Plymouth county, may be mentioned Michael Joseph Tracy, now deceased, who was born in Tipperary, Ireland, on November 1, 1846, and was the son of William and Bridget (Gilfoil) Tracy, both of whom were

natives of that country. The father was born in Tipperary and the mother in Queens county. They were married in Ireland and later came to Canada, where they lived on a farm as tenants for fourteen years. They then purchased a farm in that locality, where they lived until 1872, when they sold the place and came to the United States. They arrived in Sioux City on May 10, 1872. There they bought a team of horses, a wagon and provisions, and started for the farm of three hundred and twenty acres, that Mr. Tracy had purchased some time before, in Sioux township, Plymouth county. The farm had been partly broken and there was a set of buildings on the place consisting of an old frame house and a log structure, that had at one time been used as a stockade by the soldiers during the Indian troubles.

After having established their home on the new farm, Mr. and Mrs. Tracy devoted their time to the development of the place. After a residence here of some years, Mrs. Tracy died at the age of sixty-three years; William Tracy died some years later at the home of his son James, at the age of seventy-five years. They were members of the Catholic church at Jefferson, South Dakota, and during their younger life took much interest in all the services of the church. They were the parents of the following children: Patrick, John, Mary, Michael Joseph, William J., Katherine, Thomas, Margaret, James and Bridget. Patrick left home when a young man and the family never again heard from him; John died in Union county, South Dakota in 1894, at the age of forty-eight years; Mary is the widow of Henry Barrett, and lives at Hawarden, Iowa; William J. is engaged in farming in Sioux township; Katherine is the wife of Michael Molloy, of Center, Iowa; Thomas died in the state of Washington, some years ago; Margaret, now deceased, was the wife of Richard Molloy, of Union county, South Dakota; James is a well-known farmer and stockman of Sioux county, and Bridget, who died some time ago, was the wife of Thomas Kelgan.

Michael Joseph Tracy was taken to Canada by his parents when he was but a small child, and it was there that he received his education. He later came with his parents to Sioux township, and lived at home until he took a homestead in Union county, South Dakota, where he remained for a few years, when he returned to Plymouth county. He purchased land in Perry township, and engaged in farming until the time of his death on August 27, 1913.

Michael Joseph Tracy was united in marriage to Ellen Creary, a daughter of John and Bridget (Mayher) Creary, both of whom were natives of Ireland, and settled in Plymouth county in an early day. Their death

occurred some years ago. Michael and Ellen Tracy were the parents of nine children, V. L., Ervin, William, Amy, Alfred, Marie Valera, Kathlyn, John and Edwin. V. L. has charge of the home farm and is the owner of a farm of his own, and is engaged in general farming and stock raising; Amy is the wife of G. H. Bennett, of Sioux City; Marie Valera is a successful teacher near Akron, Iowa. Mr. and Mrs. Tracy were devout members of the Catholic church and reared their children in the faith of that denomination. Mr. Tracy was a believer in the principles of the Democratic party, and always took an interest in local affairs. He was a hard working man and had much to do with the early development of the township, and he and his wife had many friends, who held them in the highest regard.

JOHN HELD.

One of Plymouth county's enterprising farmers is John Held, who has made a success in his calling very largely because he has been willing to give up many of the old and antiquated ideas of farming and adopted such new ones as were practicable here. He was born in Hungerford township, this county, July 24, 1877, and he has been contented to spend his life in his native locality. He is a son of Erhard and Elizabeth (Winter) Held, the father having been born in Germany in 1834 and died in this county in 1913. He came to America in 1856 and was married in Jackson county, Nebraska, in 1861, and soon thereafter came to Plymouth county, being among the pioneers, locating on wild land in Hungerford township, which he developed and on which he carried on general farming until his death. He was one of the leading farmers of the county and became owner of about twelve hundred acres of valuable land in Hungerford township. His family consisted of ten children. A complete sketch of him will be found on another page in this volume.

John Held grew up on the home farm and he received a common-school education. In 1903 he married Charlotta Marie Raven, a daughter of T. J. Raven and wife, of Plymouth county, where she was reared and educated. Three children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Held, namely: Elvin, John and Floyd.

Mr. Held has always engaged in farming and has been very successful as a general farmer and stock raiser. He owns a valuable and well-improved farm of four hundred and forty acres in Hungerford township, he having



MR. AND MRS. JOHN HEID

made the improvements himself. He has a commodious home and numerous substantial outbuildings, and an excellent grade of live stock of various kinds may always be found on his place.

Mr. Held is a Democrat in politics, and he is now filling the office of president of the board of trustees of Hungerford township. Fraternally, he belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Modern Woodmen of America.

EDWARD STINTON.

Edward Stinton, one of the well-known and successful fariners of Johnson township, Plymouth county, was born in the state of Iowa, on June 19, 1868, the son of James and Susan (Fletcher) Stinton.

Robert and Mary Stinton, the paternal grandparents of Edward Stinton, were natives of England, where they were married. The grandfather as a young man engaged in farming, and in time became one of the successful men of the district. The grandparents continued to reside in the land of their nativity, and there they died many years ago. They were prominent members of the Congregational church, and were ever active in both the social and the religious life of the community in which they lived. They were the parents of twelve children, five of whom came to America, Robert, William, Joseph, Charles and James.

James and Susan Stinton, the parents of Edward Stinton, were natives of England, and there received their education in the public schools, grew up and were married. As a young man James Stinton engaged in general farming, at which he continued for the most part during his residence in England. In 1855 he and his wife came to the United States and on arrival came to Iowa, where they located at Lyons, and there Mr. Stinton was engaged as a brick mason for four or five years. He later resided with his brother in Illinois, where he engaged in farming. In 1874 he came to Johnson township, Plymouth county, and here he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land, which he later increased to two hundred and forty acres. The tract at the time of the purchase, was for the most part a wild prairie, and required much hard work to bring under cultivation. A small house, sixteen by sixteen feet and was erected, in which the family lived for a number of years. The tough prairie sod was eventually broken and the farm developed into one of the finest in the township. A grove was planted and,

in time, substantial and modern structures were erected to take the place of the original buildings. Overcoming many of the difficulties of the early pioneer life, Mr. Stinton became one of the prosperous and influential farmers and stockmen of the community. He continued the active life of a farmer, until 1894, when he rented the farm to his son, Edward. In 1910, he sold the place to Edward and retired to Akron, where he and his wife lived until July 1916, when Mrs. Stinton died at the age of seventy-nine years, she having been born in 1837. James Stinton met his death as a result of falling and breaking his hip on February 7, 1917; his injuries proved fatal on February 18, and two days later he was buried in Pleasant Valley cemetery, Johnson township.

James and Susan Stinton were the parents of the following children: William, Edward, Mary, Alice, Anna Elizabeth and Edward. The first-named, Edward, William and Mary, died in infancy; Alice, who is now deceased, was the wife of Phineas Oakes, a well-known resident of the county; Anna Elizabeth is the wife of G. B. Brown, a successful farmer and stockman of Johnson township.

James and Susan Stinton were long prominent in the social and the religious life of the township, and were ever active in all that tended to the betterment of the community. Mr. Stinton took much interest in local affairs, and was for many years trustee of his township, and also served as road supervisor. Mr. and Mrs. Stinton had much to do with the civic and moral growth of the township, and their influence was keenly felt in the development of the district along these lines.

Edward Stinton received his education in the public schools of Johnson township, and here grew to manhood on the home farm, where as a lad and young man he assisted his father with the farm work. After completing his education and after reaching manhood, he remained at home. In 1894 he rented the farm of his father. For sixteen years he continued to farm the place for his father, when in 1910, he purchased the place. At the time he bought the place, it consisted of two hundred and eighteen acres, the balance having been sold before that time. Edward Stinton has been engaged in general farming and stock raising, in which he has been successful. He cultivated about one hundred acres of corn each year and about forty acres of wheat, and some oats. He bred and raised the best registered Shorthorn cattle and Duroc-Jersey hogs. On February 22, 1917, Mr. Stinton had a sale and disposed of his stock and machinery. On March 1 he moved with his family to Akron, where he had purchased a home. He now rents the farm.

On December 25, 1891, Edward Stinton was united in marriage to Mary Morehead, a native of Jo Daviess county, Illinois, and had lived in Plymouth county only a short time before her marriage. To this union the following children have been born: Neva, Lester and Blanche. Neva is the wife of Rex Pollock, a successful young farmer of the township. They are the parents of two children, Robert and Roberta May. Lester is now at home, after having spent some time at Toledo College. Blanche has attended Merrill school and is now at home.

Edward and Mary Stinton are active members of the United Brethren church and are prominent in the social and religious life of the township. For seventeen years Mr. Stinton was superintendent of the Sunday school and has recently resigned from the position. He has always taken much interest in the civic life of the township, and was for seven years township trustee and for ten years served as clerk of the township.

JAMES STINTON.

James Stinton, one of the well-known and prominent retired farmers of Johnson township, Plymouth county, was born in England on May 9, 1833, the son of Robert and Mary Stinton.

Robert and Mary Stinton were also natives of England and there received their education in the public schools and there grew to maturity and were married. Robert Stinton was a farmer from boyhood, having been reared on a farm. When a young man he decided that he would engage in farm work. He devoted his life to the work, and was well known in the community as a successful tiller of the soil. He was content only with the best of results on the farm and became recognized as one of the successful men of the district. Mr. and Mrs. Stinton were active members of the Congregational church and always took much interest in church work, and were prominent in the social life of the community, where they were held in the highest regard and esteem by all who knew them. Robert and Mary Stinton died in England. They were the parents of twelve children, five of whom came to America, Robert, William, Joseph, Charles and James. Their home life in their native country was for the most part a pleasant one, but they felt that they would have better advantages in the United States.

James Stinton received his education in England and there grew to manhood and was married to Susan Fletcher. As a young man he engaged in

farming, and after his marriage he and his wife continued to live in England until 1855. At that time they decided to come to the United States, where they might make a home for themselves and their family. On their arrival in this country, they at once came to Iowa, and they located at Lyons, where Mr. Stinton worked as a brick mason for four or five years, during which time he carried the hod and did other work, in order to make a living. For a time he resided on a farm in Illinois with his brother, and there engaged in farming. In 1874 he came to Johnson township, Plymouth county, where he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of railroad land. The tract at that time was wild prairie, and there were no roads or bridges to make access easy to the outer world and to the markets. Here James Stinton built a shanty of lumber, sixteen by sixteen feet, and in this the family lived for a number of years. The first year a part of the tough prairie sod was broken and prepared for cultivation. In addition to the breaking of some of the land, Mr. Stinton went to the Sioux river, where he obtained some trees, which he planted on the farm, which are today magnificently developed. He later planted a grove, one of the best in the community. When he first began to farm on his new tract, he was the possessor of three horses, one of which died soon after he located on the place. Then to add to his difficulties and hardships, the grasshoppers took the greater part of his crops, for the first two or three years. In time he began to prosper; better buildings were erected, and many valuable improvements were made. Another eighty acres of land was purchased and the farm was placed in the best possible condition. Here Mr. Stinton engaged in general farming and stock raising, until 1894, at which time he rented the place to his son, Edward, who farmed the place for him until 1910, when Edward purchased the farm and James Stinton retired to Akron. He and his wife had a beautiful home at Akron; they enjoyed the pleasures of a retired life, until July, 1916, when Mrs. Stinton died at the age of seventy-nine years, she having been born in the year 1837. On January 7, 1917, James Stinton fell and broke his hip; he died at the hospital at Akron on February 18 and two days later was buried at Pleasant Valley cemetery in Johnson township.

James and Susan (Fletcher) Stinton were the parents of the following children: William, Walter, Mary, Alice, Anna Elizabeth and Edward. William, Walter and Mary died in infancy. Alice, who died some years ago was the wife of Phineas Oakes, a well-known resident of the county. Anna Elizabeth married G. R. Brown. Mrs. Brown died in 1889.

James Stinton and wife were for many years members of the Congrega-

tional church, and were prominent in the activities of the church while living in England. On coming to Plymouth county, they united with the United Brethren church, of which they were active members for many years. On moving to Akron they united with the Methodist Episcopal church, in which denomination Mrs. Stinton took much interest until the time of her death, and in which Mr. Stinton was one of the active members. Mr. and Mrs. Stinton always lived consistent Christian lives, and were most generous in their views. It was not the particular church, but the principles of Christianity that they looked to, and which they tried to follow to the best of their understanding.

James Stinton always took much interest in local affairs and had much to do with the civic life of the township. For many years he served as township trustee and as road supervisor.

PAUL ZENK.

Paul Zenk, deceased, was born in Bavaria, Germany, in 1854, and died in October, 1910. His early life was spent in his native land, and there he received his education in the public schools. As a young man he came to the United States and located in Le Mars, Iowa, where he married Mary Felschime, also a native of Bavaria, and who came to Iowa when a young woman. After some years' residence in Le Mars, Paul Zenk came to Plymouth county, where he rented land near Oyens and later in Remsen township. Some years later he purchased eighty acres of wild prairie land in Remsen township. He at once erected a small house and began the task of developing his farm. He engaged in general farming and was successful and later added to the tract until he was the owner of three hundred and sixty acres of excellent land. In time the farm was in an advanced state of cultivation and was improved with good buildings, and here he continued to engage in general farming and stock raising until the time of his death. His wife had died on December 9, 1895. Mr. and Mrs. Zenk were active members of the St. Mary's Catholic church at Remsen and were prominent in the social and the religious life of the community.

Paul and Mary Zenk were the parents of the following children: Dina, Joseph, Casper, Theodore, Mary and Mike. Dina is the wife of John Waldschmidt, of Remsen township; Joseph married Maggie Kennedy, and is a

farmer and breeder of Shorthorn cattle in Remsen township; Casper was born in Remsen township, on March 18, 1886; Theodore is single, and Mike is single, and is engaged in general farming and stock raising in Sioux county, Iowa. The children were all educated in the common and the parochial schools of Remsen township and at the city of Remsen.

Paul Zenk was a prominent man in the township and the county, and took much interest in all local affairs. He had much to do with the development of the district, and was regarded as one of the influential men of the county. He was prominent in the political life of the district, and served for two terms as a member of the county board of supervisors, of which he was a member at the time of his death.

Casper Zenk now lives on the farm where he was born, and where he has spent his life. He is engaged in general farming and stock raising, in which he is most successful. He was united in marriage on November 23, 1910, to Anna Lenertz, who is a native of Iowa, and the daughter of Frank and Margaret (Molitor) Lenertz. Frank and Margaret Lenertz were natives of Luxemburg, Germany, and there received their education in the public schools and grew up and were married. Soon after their marriage, Frank and Margaret Lenertz came to America, in 1883. On their arrival in the United States they located in Dubuque county, Iowa, where they remained for a short time, when they moved to Jones county, and here Mr. Lenertz purchased a farm of two hundred acres and engaged in farming until 1888, when they came to Plymouth county and settled in section 1, Union township, where they purchased three hundred acres of land, at twenty-seven dollars per acre. This farm Mr. Lenertz developed and erected the present buildings, and made his farm one of the best in the township. He later purchased more land and is now the owner of over six hundred acres. He retired from farm life in 1911 and moved to Remsen, where he and his wife have a handsome home. Mr. and Mrs. Lenertz are active members of the Catholic church and are prominent in the social and the religious life of the community. They are the parents of four children, Charles, Anna, Kate and Frank.

To Casper and Anna Zenk have been born three children, Florence M., born on December 19, 1911; Norbert F., September 23, 1913, and Walter T., December 29, 1915. Mr. and Mrs. Zenk are active in the work of the Catholic church and in the social life of the community. Mr. Zenk now owns one hundred and thirty-three acres of valuable land, and is engaged in general farming, and the raising of Shorthorn cattle and draft horses. He is identified with the Democratic party and takes an interest in all local affairs.

FREDERICK BURKARD.

Germany has furnished to Plymouth county many of her substantial men and women and among the number may be mentioned Frederick Burkard, who was born in Baden, that county, on February 14, 1856, the son of John and Eva Burkard, both of whom were natives of that part of Europe.

John and Eva Burkard received their education in the schools of their native land. They were later married and continued to live in the fatherland until the time of their deaths. The father worked as a laborer and at farming, the greater part of his life. He was a good citizen, devoted to his family, and his constant effort was to give to his wife and children all possible comforts. He and his wife were the parents of four children, two of whom, Frederick and Casper, came to America. Mr. and Mrs. Burkard were devout members of the Catholic church and reared their family in the faith of that church.

Frederick Burkard was educated in the public and parochial schools of Germany and there grew to manhood. As a lad and young man he worked as a farm hand and later came to America. On his arrival in this country he came to Illinois, where he located at Oregon and there worked as a farm hand for two years, when he moved to Freeport, Illinois, where he continued to work on the farm for four years, at the end of which time he came to Iowa. Here he located on a farm north of Le Mars, Plymouth county, which he rented for six years and engaged in general farming and stock raising. He later rented a farm for three years in Elgin township, and later purchased eighty acres in the township, which he in time increased to two hundred and eighty acres, all of which is well under cultivation and nicely improved. During the past few years he has expended several thousand dollars in improvements and today has one of the finest country places in the township. He is engaged in mixed farming and stock raising and is meeting with much success. He cultivates some ninety-five acres of corn each year and the same number of acres of small grain, and raises and feeds about seventy head of hogs and some good cattle each year. He raises much more grain than he feeds on the place, which he sells in the markets.

In 1881 Frederick Burkard was united in marriage in Oregon, Illinois, to Frances Worff, daughter of John and Barbara Worff, of Baden, Germany. To this union nine children have been born as follow: John, William, Kathryn, Joseph, Anna, Mary, Louis, Henry and Florence. John married Lucy Majeres and they are the parents of four children, Roman, Frances, Leonard and Margaret; William married May Majeres and they have one child, Edwin;

Kathryn is the wife of Nick Wellong, and they are the parents of one child, Marie; Joseph married Clara Hissel; the other children are at home with the parents.

Frederick and Frances Burkard are devout members of the Catholic church at Le Mars and are prominent in the social life of the community. They take much interest in all educational matters in the district and have had much to do with the general moral and civic growth of the township. Mr. Burkard is an active member of the Catholic Men's Protective Association, and is recognized as a leader in all the progressive works of the home district. He has long been associated with the Democratic party and has for some years served as school director.

Few men in the township have met with greater success, through their own efforts, than has Mr. Burkard. Coming to the United States when a young man, without financial means and without influence, he has by his own efforts risen to a position of influence in his home district. He is a man in whom all have the greatest confidence, and his advice and influence are often sought relative to the civic life of the township as well as the county. He is a firm believer in the best of schools and good roads.

LAWRENCE C. CLAREY.

One of the progressive farmers of Liberty township, Plymouth county, is Lawrence C. Clarey, who was born on the old homestead in the township, on February 27, 1874, and is the son of Thomas and Mary (McCarty) Clarey.

Thomas and Mary (McCarty) Clarey were born in Ireland, where their families had resided for many years. At the age of fourteen years, Thomas Clarey was brought to Galena, Illinois, by his parents. Mary (McCarty) Clarey remained in her native land until she was grown, and there received her education. She later came to the United States to join her brother, Lawrence, who then resided at Dubuque, Iowa. She later came to Galena, and here she met Thomas Clarey, to whom she was married in 1864. After their marriage, they established their home on a rented farm, where they remained until 1866, when they came to Sioux City, Iowa. In 1867 they took a homestead of eighty acres in section 22, Liberty township, Plymouth county. Mr. Clarey built a small frame shanty, and at once started to develop his farm. With much hard work the place was soon under cultivation, and the little family began to prosper. More land was bought, a substantial frame house

was erected, and many other valuable improvements were made. The farm was increased until there were three hundred and sixty acres in the tract. Here Mr. Clarey engaged in general farming and stock raising until 1903, when he rented the place and moved to Sioux City, where he has a most pretentious residence, and in addition to the home place, he owns six other good and substantial houses.

To Thomas and Mary Clarey have been born the following children: Mary, Nellie, Thomas F., James, Anna, Lawrence C., John, Agnes, Kate, Edward and William, all of whom are living, with the exception of Edward. Mary became the wife of G. W. Colson, who died a few years ago. They were the parents of three children, Irene, Clare and Rhea. Mrs. Colson is now a resident of Sioux City. Nellie is the wife of J. J. Mansfield, a farmer of Plymouth county, and they are the parents of two children, Leo and Mary; Thomas F. is a prominent farmer of Westfield township, is married to Mary Booden, and three children were born to them, John, Clifford and Harry, who is now deceased. For the past few years the family have not known the whereabouts of James. Anna lives with her brother, Lawrence C., and keeps up the home; John, who is in the real estate business at Minneapolis, Minnesota, married Hattie Marshall and they are the parents of two children, John and Anna Marie; Agnes is the wife of Ed Kennen, a partner of John Clarey, in the real estate business at Minneapolis, and they have three children, Edward, Agnes and Anna Marie; Kate lives with her parents at Sioux City, and William married Lily Buckley, and is engaged in the real estate business in Colorado.

Lawrence C. Clarey received his primary education in the public schools of Liberty township, and later attended a business college at Sioux City for six months. After completing his education he returned to the farm and assisted his father in the work of general farming and stock raising, until the latter's retirement. He then rented the place, and has since been successfully engaged in his chosen work. He operates three hundred and sixty acres and raises many cattle and hogs, being particularly interested in Shorthorn cattle and Poland China hogs, and is today recognized as one of the successful and substantial men of the township. In addition to his interests on his father's place, Mr. Clarey owns one hundred and sixty acres in section 15, Liberty township, which he rents. He also owns land in Colorado and South Dakota. He is one of the most progressive men in the township and his farm is managed and operated with much success.

Mr. Clarey is a member of the Catholic church and a man of much ability. He is now and has been for a number of years chairman of the township board

of trustees, as well as treasurer of the school board. He is a stockholder in the Farmers' Elevator at Merrill, and has had much to do with the success of that institution. His influence has always been for those projects that had to do with the betterment of the township and the county.

IHNKE HARMS.

Among the successful farmers of Washington township, Plymouth county, is Ihnke Harms, who was born in Hanover, Germany, on December 2, 1854, the son of Jacob and Anna Harms, both of whom were natives of that country. The parents were also natives of that country and there received their education in the public schools and grew to manhood and womanhood and were married. It was there that their children were born. They were the parents of four children, Ihnke and Heike being the only ones who came to America. Mr. and Mrs. Harms were active members of the German Lutheran church and were prominent in the social life of the community in which they lived.

Ihnke Harms received his education in the schools of Germany and there grew to manhood and there worked as a farm hand until 1881, when he came to the United States. On his arrival in this country he came to Iowa and located northwest of Le Mars, where he worked on the farm for one year. He then went to Illinois, where he worked with his brother, Heike, for one year as a blacksmith in the mines. He then returned to Iowa, where he engaged in general farming on a rented farm for two years, after which he purchased a farm of eighty acres in Grant township, Plymouth county, which he developed and later sold and purchased one hundred and twenty acres in the township, to which he added forty acres. Here he engaged in farming until 1901, when he moved to Washington township, where he purchased two hundred and forty acres, the farm where he now lives. This farm he has developed and has placed over ten thousand dollars' worth of improvements on it. He has increased his original purchase to five hundred and sixty acres, all of which is under high cultivation and well improved. His sons operate two hundred and forty acres of the place and he cultivates one hundred acres of corn and seventy acres of small grain each year, in addition to the raising and feeding a carload of cattle and one hundred head of hogs.

In 1886 Ihnke Harms was united in marriage to Lena Siebels, daughter of Claus Siebels and wife, and to this union the following children were born:

Henry, Charles, Herman, Richard, John, Anna, Marie and Kate. Anna married Henry Harms and is the mother of two children, and Mary married Barney Johlfs.

Ihnke Harms was a poor boy at the time he came to this country and by hard work and close application to business he has become one of the substantial and successful men of the township in which he lives. He and his wife are active members of the German Lutheran church and for a number of years Mr. Harms was trustee of the local society.

RUDOLPH ERKS.

Rudolph Erks, one of the well-known and successful farmers of Preston township, Plymouth county, was born in Hanover, Germany, on December 25, 1861, the son of George Erks and wife, who were also natives of Hanover. They were educated there in the public schools and grew up and were married. After their marriage they continued to reside in their native land, where they died some years ago, the mother dying in 1866, when the son, Rudolph, was but five years of age. The father as a young man learned the wagon-maker's trade, to which he devoted his life. He and his wife were prominent in the local, social and religious life of the community in which they lived, and where they were held in the highest esteem by all who knew them. They were the parents of eight children, five of whom came to America: Herman, Will, Henry, Rudolph and Kate. Herman is a resident of Pipestone, Minnesota; Will is a farmer of South Dakota; Henry lives in the state of Washington and Kate lives in Oklahoma.

Rudolph Erks received his education in the public schools of Germany and there he grew to manhood. At the age of twenty-one years he decided to come to America, and on his arrival in this country, he came to Iowa. Here he located in Preston township, Plymouth county, and for four years worked as a farm hand for Mr. Jacobs. At the end of this time he began to farm for himself, and purchased eighty acres of land in section 27, Preston township. The tract at that time was all wild prairie and required the hardest labor to bring it under cultivation. Mr. Erks was determined to make a home for himself, and at once began the task of developing his farm. He built a house, fourteen by twenty, and a small barn, that he covered with hay. He broke the tough prairie sod and planted his crops, the first of which were corn and oats. He soon became successful as a general farmer and stock

raiser. He planted a beautiful grove of four acres and erected a substantial house, which he remodeled and made modern in 1915. In 1911 he had built a fine barn, sixty by seventy feet, with a hayloft for one hundred and twenty-five tons of hay. He has a granary and corn crib, combined, and one of the best hog houses in the community, the latter being built almost entirely of concrete.

In time, as Rudolph Erks began to prosper, he invested in more land, and is today the owner of four hundred and forty acres of the best land that may be found in the township. Of this, he farms two hundred and eighty acres and rents the rest. As a general farmer and stockman, Mr. Erks is recognized as one of the most successful in the township. He devotes his time to the cultivation of corn and oats, and has some twenty acres of alfalfa. He raises and feeds about seventy head of high-grade Hereford cattle and one hundred and twenty-five head of good hogs, each year. He keeps about twenty horses to operate his large farm, and he and his family have the pleasure of two automobiles.

On April 6, 1889, Rudolph Erks was united in marriage to Helen M. Jacobs, the daughter of Fred and Margaretha Jacobs, both natives of Germany. It was by Mr. Jacobs that Mr. Erks was first employed as a farm hand when he came to Plymouth county. Mr. and Mrs. Jacobs were educated in the schools of their native land and there they were married. Soon after their marriage they came to America and, on their arrival, came direct to Illinois, where they located after their long voyage of sixty-five days on a sailing vessel. In Illinois, Mr. Jacobs was engaged for a few years as a farm hand, and then came to Iowa, where he located in Jones county, and there rented land and worked as a farm hand for one or two years. He then came to Plymouth county and here he purchased a homestead right to eighty acres of wild prairie land, in 1872. This he developed and improved, and later became the owner of a large tract of land. After a residence of ten years in the little house erected on his homestead right, Mr. Jacobs built the present substantial structure. Here he has, in addition to his house, a fine grove, a splendid barn and other buildings. For some years before his death, in 1903, he had lived a retired life, and the widow is now living with her son, John.

Fred and Margaretha Jacobs were the parents of two children, John, a successful farmer of the township, and Helen (Jacobs) Erks. Mr. and Mrs. Jacobs were active members of the German Lutheran church and for many years Mr. Jacobs was a trustee of the local church organization in the township. Mr. Jacobs was long recognized as one of the prominent and influential men of the district and he and his wife were held in the highest esteem.

Rudolph and Helen M. Erks are the parents of five children, Mary, Fred, John, Meta and Willie. Mary is the wife of Henry Fredricks, a successful young farmer of Preston township. They are the parents of three children, Elvin, Willie and Henry. Mr. and Mrs. Erks are members of the German Lutheran church, and are prominent in the social and church work of the community. Mr. Erks is identified with the Republican party, and takes an active interest in the civic life of the township.

LEWIS C. OLOFF.

Of the many successful farmers and stockmen of Plymouth county, may be mentioned Lewis C. Oloff, of Preston township, who was born in Pennsylvania on November 13, 1874, the son of Lewis and Minnie (Rickert) Oloff.

Lewis and Minnie Oloff were natives of Germany, where they received their education in the public schools and grew to maturity. They later came to the United States and located in Pennsylvania, where they were married. Lewis Oloff remained a resident of his native land until 1868. In Germany he served his country in the army for a number of years, and on coming to Pennsylvania he worked in the car shops until 1876, when he and his family moved to Iowa, where he rented a farm near Cedar Rapids, and later purchased a farm of eighty acres in that locality. This he developed and improved and he engaged in general farming and stock raising until 1884, when he came to Plymouth county. He first purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in section 14, Preston township. The farm at that time was but little developed and had but few improvements. Mr. Oloff at once started to develop the farm and in time had one of the ideal places in the township. He has been successful in general farming and stock raising and is now the owner of seven hundred and twenty acres of the best land, all of which is under cultivation and well improved. The land is all in Preston township, with the exception of one farm. On his land in Preston township he has three sets of substantial buildings, with fine groves and good orchards. Mr. Oloff continued in the active work on the farm until 1902, when he moved to Ireton, Iowa, where he now resides.

Lewis and Minnie Oloff are the parents of four children, Minnie, Lewis C., Fred and Clara. Minnie is the wife of J. P. Riter, an implement dealer of Ireton; Fred is engaged in farming a part of his father's land in Preston township, and Clara is the wife of Arthur Kallsen, a farmer of Preston town-

ship. Mr. and Mrs. Oloff have long been prominent in the social life of the township, in the affairs of which Mr. Oloff has taken so prominent a part.

Lewis C. Oloff received his education in the schools of Cedar Rapids, the public schools of Preston township and in the normal school at Le Mars. He grew to manhood on the home farm, and assisted his father with the farm work until 1897. At that time he was united in marriage to Tena Rohlf, a member of one of the old families of Grant township. To this union Herold was born on August 16, 1906, and is now attending school in the township. After his marriage Lewis Oloff began farming for himself, by renting two hundred acres of his father's farm, on which he still resides. In addition to this farm, which he still manages, he is the owner of a farm in section 13, Preston township, which he has developed and improved and which he now farms. Soon after he engaged in farming, he began to raise stock, and has devoted his time to the care and the breeding of registered Shorthorn cattle, and generally keeps about forty head of the best of that breed. He has shown his stock at the state and inter-state fairs for the past five years; he has won the following prizes in 1916—four championship ribbons, fifteen first prizes, seven second, ten third, six fourth, four fifth and one sixth. During the time he has shown his stock at the fairs, he has exhibited but one animal that failed to take a prize. His stock has won much favorable comment in the leading stock papers of the United States and Europe, and his animals have always received the most favorable consideration. Among his many fine animals are a herd bull, "Mars Avon" 383858; a year-old bull, "Mars Avon the Second" 480215, which is one of the finest in the country; a bull calf, "Pride of Avon" 496178, born on January 8, 1916; "Avon King" 496175, born on January 12, 1916; "Lady Belle" 226543, born on September 3, 1906; "Roan Evelyn" 480216, a heifer, born on September 12, 1915; "Avon Aryess" 496179, a heifer calf, born on January 5, 1916, and one that has so far been a great winner. In addition to those that have been named, Mr. Oloff has many cattle that have won prizes. Mr. Oloff has taken much care of his animals and feels justly proud of the herd that he now has on his farm. In addition to the care of his cattle, he has about one hundred and twenty-five hogs, and raises corn, oats, barley and alfalfa on the place. He is a believer in intensive farming and thorough cultivation, and his farm is recognized as among the best in the community. His buildings are well kept and his fields show a high degree of development.

Politically, Lewis C. Oloff is identified with the Republican party, and has for a number of years taken an active interest in the civic life of the township and the county. He has served as township trustee for two years; town-

ship clerk for four years, and was a member of the school board for a number of years. During his terms in office, he gave the same care and attention to township affairs that he did to his own work. He has always been much interested in the progress of the schools, and while a member of the school board did much to advance education in his township.

Mr. and Mrs. Oloff are active members of the German Lutheran church, and have long been active in the social and the religious life of the community, where they are held in the highest regard and esteem by all.

JOHN J. EDWARDS.

The late John Edwards, for years one of the best-known and most substantial farmers of this county, was a native of Illinois, born in that state in 1831, and grew up amid pioneer conditions there. His father died when he was but a boy and his early opportunities for obtaining an education were thus restricted. Not long after this part of Iowa was opened for settlement he came here and secured a tract of land in Elkhorn township, Plymouth county, thus becoming one of the pioneers of this county. In 1883 he married and for some time thereafter he and his wife made their home here, but later moved to Nebraska, where they remained for eight years, or until 1895, in which year they returned to Plymouth county and located in Union township, where Mr. Edwards spent the rest of his life, his death occurring in September, 1902. Mr. Edwards was a Republican and ever gave a good citizens' attention to local political affairs, though not a seeker after office.

In May, 1883, in Plymouth county, John J. Edwards was united in marriage to Zoe A. Clarke, who was born in Green Lake county, Wisconsin, daughter of J. W. and Ann (Stevens) Clarke, natives of England, who came to this country after their marriage and proceeded on out to Wisconsin, where they settled on a farm in Green Lake county. There Mrs. Clarke died in 1871 and Mr. Clarke later came out to this section of Iowa and settled on a farm in Union township, this county, where he established his home, later going to California, where his death occurred in 1879. To him and his wife nine children have been born, namely: Phyllis Ann, who is now residing at Chicago, Illinois; Frank H., who lives in California; Belle, deceased; W. S., of Le Mars, this county; Zoe A., widow of Mr. Edwards; Mary Ann, of Portland, Oregon; Josephine, of California; C. E., of Minnesota, and John W., of California.

To John J. and Zoe A. (Clarke) Edwards six children were born, as follow: Harry, who died at the age of seventeen years; John E., now of the United States navy, serving on the torpedo-boat destroyer "Preble"; Clarke, of Omaha, Nebraska; Mary, who for three years taught school in Union and Henry townships, this county, married William McCartney, a well-known farmer of Union township, and has two children, Yale and Grace; Helen, who was graduated from Heald's Business College at Sacramento, California, May 19, 1916, and is now engaged as a commercial stenographer in that city, and one who died in infancy. Since the spring of 1915 Mrs. Edwards and her daughter, Helen, have been making their home in Sacramento.

ARMAND NAFFZIGER, M. D.

Armand Naffziger, one of the well-known and successful medical practitioners of Merrill, Plymouth county, was born in McLain county, Illinois, on May 8, 1876, being the son of William and Amalia Naffziger, both of whom were natives of Germany.

William and Amalia Naffziger received their education in the schools of Germany and there grew to manhood and womanhood and came to this country single and located in McLain county, Illinois, where they were later married. Soon after their marriage they established their home in the county where they remained until they moved to Cherokee county, near Marcus, where Mr. Naffziger engaged in general farming and stock raising until he retired from the activities of farm life. Mrs. Naffziger, in addition to her education in the public schools, took a complete course in musical instruction in the best musical schools of Berlin and became an accomplished musician. After coming to America, she was among the first music teachers in the vicinity of Marcus, where she gave many musical programs and concerts and became known throughout the country as one of the talented musicians of the state. She was most talented in her line of work and was recognized as a most accomplished musician. Her talent was far above the average and she became known throughout the country, because of her great ability. William and Amalia Naffziger were the parents of five children as follow: Hugo, Armand, William, Jr., Clara and Victor. During his active life in Cherokee county, and since his retirement to Marcus, Mr. Naffziger has always taken much interest in local affairs, and has been recognized as one of the substantial and influential men of the community.

Armand Naffziger received his primary education in the schools of



MRS. MINERVA NAFFZIGER

McLain county, Illinois, after which he attended the Northwestern University and graduated from that institution at the age of nineteen years. After completing his education he located in Chicago, Illinois, where he clerked in a large drug house for ten years. During the time he was in this establishment he was promoted to head clerk and had full charge of the business. Owing to ill health he resigned his position and soon entered the Illinois Medical College and was graduated in 1904 with the degree of Doctor of Medicine. After completing his work in the medical school he established himself at Wayne, Nebraska, where he remained for eight years and then sold out his business and moved to Florida on account of the health of his son, and after a residence there of one year he located in Omaha, where he did special work for a year. It was in 1915 that he came to Merrill, where he has since resided and where he now has a most extensive practice. He is a member of the Sioux Valley and the Plymouth County Medical Society and has ever taken an active interest in these organizations.

On May 22, 1901, Armand Naffziger was united in marriage to Minerva Thompson, the daughter of I. C. and Alice Thompson, and to this union two children have been born, Cyril and Marjorie, the former having died in December, 1914.

Doctor Naffziger is identified with the Republican party and has taken much interest in local affairs, and he and his wife have been prominent in the social and the religious life of the community, where they are held in the highest regard and esteem by all who knew them.

HERMAN REICHEL.

Herman Reichel, one of the prominent farmers and stockmen of Preston township, Plymouth county, was born at Mt. Olive, Illinois, on November 4, 1869, the son of Herman and Minnie Reichel.

Herman Reichel was born in Saxony, Germany. There he received his education in the public schools and as a lad he learned the carpenter and wagon-making trade. Later he came to the United States and located in Illinois, where he was married to Minnie Schwertfeger, and where he and his wife continued to live. Mrs. Reichel died when a young woman and Mr. Reichel died in July, 1901. Mr. and Mrs. Reichel were active members of the German Lutheran church and took much interest in all church work. They were the parents of three children, August, Herman and Anna. When Mrs.

Reichel died, their three small children were taken by their grand-parents, Conrad and Elenora Schwertfeger. Grandma Schwertfeger is still living, past ninety-one years old. August Reichel is married and still living near Mt. Olive, Illinois; Anna married Enoch Ulrich and lives in St. Louis, Missouri.

Herman Reichel received his education in the common schools of Illinois, and there grew to manhood. At the age of fourteen he was employed as a farm hand at twelve dollars per month, and he was employed in his home community for some years. In 1893, he came to Plymouth county, where he continued to work as a farm hand until 1900, when he was married. At this time he decided to engage in farming for himself. For some years he rented land in Grant and Preston townships, and in July, 1907, he purchased one hundred and twenty acres of land in section 24, Preston township, of George McAuliff. When Mr. Reichel assumed possession of his farm, it was improved with some buildings. Today he has a modern house, barns and sheds, all of which are well kept. The buildings are nicely located and are well protected by well-set-out groves, and is one of the pleasing farm homes of the community. Mr. Reichel is engaged in general farming and stock raising, in which he has been most successful. His farm is under a high state of cultivation and he keeps good stock. He now has a fine herd of mostly full-blooded Shorthorn cattle and Chester White hogs and fine horses. He devotes his time for the most part in the growing of corn and oats, all of which he feeds on the place, and is often compelled to buy more, in order to develop his large amount of stock.

On March 14, 1900, Herman Reichel was united in marriage to Meta Rohlfs, the daughter of J. H. Rohlfs and wife, well-known residents of the county. Mr. Rohlfs was a native of Germany and remained a resident of his native land until 1876, then with his wife and two small children—Meta being a small child—he came to the United States. He located for a time in Jones county, Iowa, and later came to Plymouth county. Mr. Rohlfs died on September 1, 1906. His widow is still living at the home of her eldest daughter, Mrs. L. C. Oloff.

Herman and Meta Reichel are the parents of one child, George, who has completed the work in the common schools of his township and German school, and is now at home with the parents. Mr. and Mrs. Reichel are members of the Lutheran church and have ever taken much interest in church work, and have long been prominent in the social life of the community. Mr. Reichel has always taken a keen interest in local affairs, and is a strong advocate of substantial public improvements. He does not aspire to office, yet he takes an interest in the selection of competent men for the various official positions in the township and the county.

JOHN JACOBS.

John Jacobs, a prominent farmer of Preston township, Plymouth county, was born on the old Jacobs farm in that township on October 31, 1873, being the son of Fred and Margaretha (Kleihauer) Jacobs.

Borchet and Helena Jacobs, paternal grand-parents of John Jacobs, were natives of Germany, as were his maternal grandparents, Ihnke and Engel Kleinhauer. The grandparents were all educated in their native land, and there they grew up and were married, and there they reared their families, and there they died. They were prominent in the social and the religious life of the communities in which they lived and were held in the highest esteem by all who knew them. They were of the farming class.

Fred and Margaretha Jacobs were born in 1845 and 1843 respectively. They received their education in the public schools of their native land and there they grew to maturity and were later married. Fred Jacobs was reared on the farm and engaged in that work until his marriage in 1867, when he and his wife came to America. On their arrival in the United States, after a voyage of sixty-five days in a sailing vessel, they came direct to Illinois, where they located in Will county, where Mr. Jacobs engaged as a farm hand for a few years. They later came to Iowa and located in Jones county, where they rented land which Mr. Jacobs cultivated, also working as a farm hand for the farmers in the community. After a year and a half in Jones county, they came to Plymouth county in 1872, and they purchased a homestead right to eighty acres of wild land, from a Mr. Bohlken. Mr. and Mrs. Jacobs at once began the task of developing and improving the place. A frame house, ten by fourteen feet, was erected, and a straw barn was put up for the protection of the stock. For a time Mr. Jacobs worked the place in partnership with a Mr. Kleihauer of Grant township. They had a team of oxen in partnership; with these they broke much of the wild prairie and planted crops. Mr. Jacobs continued to improve the farm and met with much success. He and his family lived in the first house until 1882, when the present substantial frame structure was erected. A beautiful grove of five acres was planted, and a good barn and other buildings were erected. Later, Mr. Jacobs purchased more land and at the time of his death in 1903, he was the owner of eight hundred acres of the best land. Some years before his death he had lived a retired life. The widow is now living on the home place with her son, John Jacobs.

Fred and Margaretha Jacobs were the parents of two children, Helen M. and John. Helen M. is the wife of Rudolph Erks, a successful farmer of

Preston township. Mr. Erks was born in Hanover, Germany, on December 25, 1861, the son of Mr. and Mrs. George Erks. His parents were also natives of Germany; the mother died in 1866, when Mr. Erks was but five years of age. His father was a wagon-maker by trade and a man of influence in his home community. Rudolph Erks continued to reside in Germany until he was twenty-one years of age, when he came to the United States. He located in Preston township, Plymouth county, where he worked for Mr. Jacobs for four years. He later rented land and is now the owner of four hundred and forty acres of excellent land. He and his wife are prominent in the social and religious life of the community.

Fred Jacobs took much interest in the civic life of his home township, and was especially interested in the development of the schools, and was for many years a director of his school district. He was recognized as one of the substantial and progressive men of the township. He was a believer in public improvements and the support of good schools. He and his wife were members of the German Lutheran church, and Mr. Jacobs was for many years a trustee of the local society. They took much interest in all departments of church work, and to them was due much of the success of the local church.

John Jacobs received his education in the public schools of his home township, and grew to manhood on the home farm, where he assisted his father with the farm work. He remained at home, and at the time of his father's retirement, he farmed the home place, the other farms being rented to others. On the death of the father, John Jacobs received for his share of the estate three hundred and twenty acres. He is now engaged in general farming and manages the estates of his mother and operates a part of his own one hundred and sixty acres. In addition to the land which he received from his father's estate, Mr. Jacobs owns one hundred and sixty acres of land in Portland township. In all he is now the manager of some four hundred and eighty acres.

John Jacobs is a progressive farmer, and maintains his own place, as well as his mother's, in the highest state of repair. He is a believer in intensive farming and thorough cultivation of the soil and the keeping of the best stock. He keeps about sixty head of Shorthorn cattle and about one hundred head of good hogs. His stock is recognized as among the best raised in the community. On his farms he raises corn, oats, some wheat and alfalfa, the most of which is fed on the place.

On March 6, 1896, John Jacobs was united in marriage to Emilie Becker, a native of Germany, where she received her education in the public schools, and later came to the United States. Mrs. Jacobs is held in the highest regard

by her neighbors and friends, for her excellent qualities of womanhood. Mr. and Mrs. Jacobs are members of the German Lutheran church, and have long been active in the social and the religious life of the community.

Politically, John Jacobs is identified with the Republican party, and has always taken a keen interest in the civic life of the township and county. He was for two years road boss of his district, during which time the highways of that section received careful attention. He has always taken much interest in the development of the schools of his home community, and has for some years served as school director.

CHARLES GALLES.

One of the prominent farmers of Remsen township, Plymouth county, is Charles Galles, who was born in Marion township, this county, on July 19, 1883, the son of John W. and Margaret (Wagoner) Galles.

John and Mary Guber Galles, the grandparents of Charles Galles, were natives of Luxemburg, Germany, and there grew up and were married. After completing his education, John Galles engaged in the dray business, in which he was successful. He and his wife continued to live in their native land, until 1869, when they came to America. After their arrival in the United States, they came direct to Iowa. Here they located in Jackson county, where Mr. Galles worked as a farm hand for some years. He later engaged in farming for himself, as a renter, and in this he continued until the time of his death. Mr. and Mrs. Galles were active members of the Catholic church and always took much interest in church work, and were well known in the religious and social life of the community. They were the parents of the following children: John, Peter, John W., Mrs. Valentine Ostead, Mrs. Peter Arens, Mrs. Katherine Mausen and Joseph.

John W. Galles, the father of Charles Galles, received his education in Luxemburg, Germany, and there grew to manhood and engaged in farm work, until the age of nineteen years, when he came to America. He located in Jackson county, Iowa, and he engaged as a farm hand until 1876, when he came to Plymouth county. He located in Le Mars, where he worked in a flour-mill for two years. He was then married and moved to a farm. He rented a farm near Le Mars, where he stayed for two years, and then moved to Remsen township, where he also rented, and then to Marion township, where he resided for a year. He then moved to North Dakota, and was there four years, and then

returned to Plymouth county and rented land until 1901, when he purchased one hundred and sixty acres in Remsen township. This he developed and improved and was engaged in general farming and stock raising until 1914, when he retired and moved to Remsen, where he now resides, and is the owner of one of the best homes of that place.

John W. Galles was united in marriage in 1878 to Margaret Wagner, daughter of Michael and Mary (Gobare) Wagner, and to this union the following children were born: John P., Joseph W., Edwin, Charles, Michael, Anna, Mary, Clara, Margaret and Clements. The mother, Margaret (Wagner) Galles, was born in Jackson county, Iowa, and there received her education in the public schools and grew to womanhood. Her parents were natives of Luxemburg, Germany, where they were married. In 1857 they came to the United States and located in Jackson county, Iowa, where they remained until 1876, when they came to Plymouth county, and here the father engaged in general farming and stock raising until the time of his death, some years ago. The family were prominent in the social and the religious life of the community and were held in high esteem. The John W. Galles family are also active members of the Catholic church, and take much interest in all church work, and are prominent in the local social circles. Mr. Galles has always taken much interest in the civic life of the township, as well as the county.

Charles Galles received his education in the public schools of Marion township and at the Catholic school at Remsen, and grew to manhood on the home farm, where as a lad he assisted his father with the farm work, and remained with his father until he was twenty-nine years of age. When John W. Galles retired from the activities of the farm he rented to strangers for two years, Charles, his son, going to Nebraska, where he rented for two years, at the end of which time he returned to Iowa and rented the home place, and here he is engaged in general farming and stock raising, in which he is most successful. He farms some fifty acres of corn and forty acres of small grain, all of which he feeds on the place. He raises about one hundred head of hogs and some cattle each year.

In January, 1912, Charles Galles was united in marriage to Virginia Boltz, the daughter of Henry Boltz and wife, prominent residents of Knox county, Nebraska, and to this union three children have been born, Lena, Lawrence and Eugene. Mr. and Mrs. Galles are prominent members of the Catholic church, and Mr. Galles is active in the work of the Knights of Columbus. He is a Democrat and takes much interest in local affairs.

CHARLES HAHN.

Of the many young men of Plymouth county, who are natives of this section of the state, and who have remained on the farm, may be mentioned Charles Hahn, who was born on the old Hahn homestead in Liberty township, on September 1, 1879. He is the son of Christopher and Sophia (Koehler) Hahn, the former a native of Germany and the latter of Galena, Illinois, though of German parentage.

Christopher Hahn was educated in the schools of Germany and he lived there until he was twenty-one years of age, when he came to the United States and located at Galena, Illinois. He attended school here for the purpose of perfecting his English. He remained at Galena until 1871, when he came to Plymouth county, where he homesteaded eighty acres of land in section 24, Liberty township. He at once built a sod house and covered it with hay, after which he entered into the task of breaking his land and getting the same ready for cultivation. For a number of years he developed his tract and did his farming with oxen. The sod house served as a residence for a year or two, before he was married, but in later years, a substantial two-story frame house was erected. A grove was planted and a barn put up, in addition to many other outbuildings. He met with much success and invested in more land, and at the time of his death he was the owner of one thousand nine hundred and eighty acres, eleven hundred acres of which was in Plymouth county. He rented the greater part of his extensive farms, yet was actively engaged in farm work until 1913, when he retired and moved to Pasadena, California, where he died in the fall of 1915, at the age of seventy-one years. His wife died in 1914, at the age of sixty-three years.

Christopher and Sophia Hahn were the parents of the following children: Philip, Mary, John, Charles, Will, Henry, Carrie, Edward, Barbara, Martha, Wesley and Fred. Philip is a United Evangelical minister, and has been in the work for the past fifteen years, and is now stationed at Odessa, Minnesota; Mary is the wife of Will Huebsch, a successful fruit grower at Pomona, California; John died in 1907 of tuberculosis; Will is a United Evangelical minister at Pasadena, California; Henry is attending college at Pasadena; Carrie is the wife of Prof. B. F. Zuehl, of the Western Union College at Le Mars; Edward is farming a part of the old home place, and is married to Melinda Kemnitz; Barbara, Martha and Fred are in college at Pasadena, and Wesley is studying in the University of California.

Charles Hahn received his primary education in the schools of Liberty

township, and for two years was a student in the Western Union College at Le Mars. He assisted his father until 1906, when he rented one hundred and sixty acres of the farm and engaged in farming for himself. In 1913 his father erected a new set of buildings on the farm in section 24, adjoining the old homestead. These buildings included an excellent house, a good barn, silo and other outbuildings. After the completion of the buildings, Charles Hahn rented this portion of the farm and here he and his family now reside. They have a handsome farm home, and the place is nicely kept. Mr. Hahn is engaged in general farming and stock raising and is recognized as one of the progressive young farmers of the county.

In 1906 Charles Hahn was united in marriage to Ella A. Huebsch, youngest daughter of Andrew Huebsch, a pioneer of Stanton township, and to this union three children have been born, Mildred, Lowell and Benjamin. Mr. and Mrs. Hahn are members of the United Evangelical church, and have long been prominent in religious and social life. Mr. Hahn takes a keen interest in local affairs, and stands for the highest standard of social and political development. He has for a number of years been identified with the Prohibition and other reform movements. He is a director of the newly organized Liberty township consolidated school, and is working hard for the successful completion of the enterprise.

J. P. SOUTHWICK.

J. P. Southwick, who is a native of Jones county, Iowa, and the son of I. B. and Charity (Pringle) Southwick, is one of the prominent and well-known farmers of Garfield township, Plymouth county, Iowa. The parents were natives of the Buckeye state and there received their education in the public schools, were married and established their home and where they resided on a farm until 1857, when they came to Iowa, where they located on the farm in Jones county, Iowa, where the son, J. P., now resides. On March 7, 1884, they moved to Plymouth county. The farm is located in sections 10 and 11, and here I. B. Southwick engaged in general farming and stock raising with success until 1898, when he retired and moved to Jones county. He had accumulated four hundred and sixty acres of excellent land, all of which was well improved and under a high state of cultivation.

I. B. and Charity Southwick were the parents of five children, as follow: Iva, A. D., J. W., Emma and J. P. The mother of these children died a number of years ago and Mr. Southwick then married Elzina Stiles, to whom three

children have been born: M. E., O. E., and Z. L. During his younger life Mr. Southwick was a member of the Free Will Baptist church, but for a number of years he has belonged to the Methodist Episcopal church.

J. P. Southwick received his education in the schools of Jones county, Iowa, and later came with his parents to Plymouth county, where he has since resided. He is now the owner of three hundred and twenty acres of the old home farm, located in section 11, Garfield township. He is engaged successfully in the cultivation of his land and breeding and the raising of high-grade stock. He is a thorough farmer and believes in the modern methods in agriculture and the care of stock.

As a young man, J. P. Southwick was united in marriage to Mary Dannenbrock, and to this union four children have been born: Earl, Raymond, Emma and Ila. Mr. and Mrs. Southwick are hospitable people and their latch-string is always out to their neighbors and friends. They have always been interested in the moral and social development of their home township, and their influence has always been cast with enterprises that have had a tendency to make better their home community.

Mr. Southwick has served his township as assessor for the past eighteen years, was school director and has held other offices. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and is a Scottish Rite Mason, holding his membership at Sioux City. Mr. Southwick is a man of sound judgment and much ability, and his advice and counsel are often sought on matters of importance that affect the welfare of the county and township.

J. H. ROHLFS.

J. H. Rohlf, now deceased, was during his active life one of the best known and successful farmers and stockmen of Plymouth county. He was born in Osfriesland, Germany, on October 6, 1848, the son of Meine J. and Hilka Katherine Rohlf, who were also natives of Germany, and were there educated in the public schools and were later married. After their marriage they continued to live in Germany where their children were born and there the mother died. There were four children in the family: J. H., Katherine, John and Fred, now all deceased. Katherine was the wife of J. D. Dirks and lived near Tallula, Illinois. Some time after the death of his wife, Meine J. Rohlf came to America and located at Tallula, Illinois, where he died in December, 1898.

J. H. Rohlfs received his education in the public schools of his native land, there grew to manhood and married in the spring of 1873. As a young man he decided to come to America. On his arrival in this country he came direct to Iowa, where his uncle, Gerd Harms, helped him to locate a house and job at farm work, and here he worked for three years as a farm hand, in Jones county, near Monticello, and for three years he rented land and engaged in farming for himself. In 1882 he came to Plymouth county. Here he purchased from W. Morgan eighty acres of wild prairie land in Grant township. There were no buildings on the place and he at once erected a frame house, sixteen by twenty-four feet, one and one-half stories high. In the spring of 1883 he began the task of developing his farm, until it gradually became one of the desirable places in the township. Mr. Rohlfs placed all the present substantial buildings on the farm, and brought the farm to its present state of excellence. He later bought more land and before his death, was the owner of five hundred and sixty acres of land. He engaged in general farming and stock raising, in which he was successful and was recognized as one of the substantial men of the community. Until 1903 he operated two hundred and forty acres of the tract and rented the balance. At that time he retired from the active duties incident to farm life, yet he took much interest in the operation of his extensive interests, until the time of his death on September 1, 1906. His widow is still living. Mr. and Mrs. Rohlfs were members of the German Lutheran church and took much interest in all church work, and were prominent in the social life of the community in which they lived. They were the parents of the following children: Tina, Meta, M. J., John G., Fred, Will, Mary and Harm. Tina is the wife of L. C. Oloff, a farmer and stockman of Preston township; Meta is the wife of Herman Reichel, a successful farmer of Preston township; M. J. married Minnie Hinrichs; John G. married Martha Rickert; Fred married Lizzie Popken; Will married Theresa Popken; Mary was the wife of Dan Moloney, Jr., who died May 9, 1915, leaving one son, Arnold, and Harm is a single man.

Mrs. J. H. Rohlfs, born Anna M. Konken, was a daughter of John G. and Sophie C. (Eilers) Konken. She was born in Jeverland, July 27, 1849, and was one of five children, the others being Meta, John, Henry and Ben. Meta was married to Harm Ricklefs; both died young, leaving a daughter, Katherina, who later came to America and was adopted by Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Rohlfs. She married Henry Borchers and died leaving one girl, Annie, now Mrs. Ben Toll. Henry and Ben Konken now live in Cedar county, Nebraska.

J. H. Rohlfs having come to Plymouth county in the early stages of its

development, had much to do with the future progress of his home township. He took keen interest in local affairs, and his advice and influence were often sought in matters that pertained to the management of township and county affairs. He advocated the highest class of public improvements, and was a strong advocate of good roads and the best schools.

HENRY MEINEN.

Henry Meinen, a native of Germany, and now a successful farmer of Preston township, Plymouth county, was born on March 11, 1860, and was the son of Anton and Mary (Taddieken) Meinen.

Anton and Mary (Taddieken) Meinen were natives of Germany and there received their education in the public schools and grew up and were married. As a young man Anton Meinen engaged in farm work, and during his residence in Germany he was employed as a farm hand in his home community. He learned the system of thorough and systematic farming and the care of farm stock. In 1866 he and his wife decided to come to America. On their arrival in the United States they located in Illinois, where Mr. Meinen rented land and engaged in general farming, for many years. In 1885 he came to Iowa and purchased two hundred and forty acres of land in section 35, Preston township, Plymouth county. The tract at that time was all wild prairie land, was without improvements and required much work to place it under cultivation. Mr. Meinen at once erected a small frame house, sixteen by twenty feet, and in this the family lived for some years, during which time he devoted himself to the development of the place and making many valuable improvements. He planted a fine grove of six acres and enlarged his house and built his barn. During the early years of his life on the place, the house was much damaged and the barn ruined by a cyclone. He at once rebuilt both the house and the barn, and planted a larger grove for future protection from the devastating winds. He developed his farm until he had one of the best in the township, and his home was one of the best in the community. He engaged in general farming and stock raising until 1905, when he retired from the active duties of farm life and lived with his son, Henry, until the time of his death on January 22, 1915, at the age of eighty-three years. Mrs. Meinen died on August 8, 1910, at the age of seventy-seven years. Mr. and Mrs. Meinen were active members of the German Lutheran church and took much interest in all church work, and were prom-

inent in the social life of the community, where they were held in the highest esteem by all who knew them. They were the parents of three children, Henry, Anna and Mary. Anna and Mary died in the year 1871.

Henry Meinen received his education in the public schools of Illinois, and remained at home until he was thirty years of age. While living in Illinois, he assisted his father with the work on the farm and came with him to Plymouth county. Here he assisted his father in the work of developing and improving the home farm. In the fall of 1889 Henry Meinen was united in marriage to Lena Nannen, one of the prominent young women of the county. In the spring of 1890 the father gave Henry Meinen eighty acres of land in section 35, Preston township, in recognition of his having lived so long at home. There was no building on the place at that time, and Mr. Meinen purchased forty acres from John Pitcher at forty dollars per acre with scant improvements. He at once entered into the task of developing his new farm and preparing it for the crops. As a general farmer and stock man he met with much success, and in time his farm was recognized as one of the finest in the township. In 1903 he built a fine two-story modern house, and later one of the finest barns in the district. Here he has planted beautiful groves, and today he has a most ideal country home, and one that is supplied with every convenience.

As Henry Meinen prospered in his work, he purchased more land, and is today the owner of fourteen hundred acres of the finest land, all of which is under high cultivation and well improved. A part of his land is in Sioux county, and he also owns one section in Texas. He is a strong advocate of intensive farming and the keeping of the best stock. He generally has about one hundred head of Shorthorn cattle and two hundred head of hogs. Much of the grain and hay that he raises on his farms, he feeds on the place, and his cattle and hogs, when ready for the markets, are recognized as among the best that are shipped from that section of the country. He takes much pride in his animals and gives them the best of care and attention. His early training on the farm, together with the German instinct for industry and economy, have been vital factors in his success as a business man and a farmer.

To Henry and Lena Meinen have been born the following children: Herman, Minnie, Bertha, Alfred, Emma and Alma. Minnie is the wife of Ernest Frerichs, a prominent young farmer of Preston township, they are the parents of one child, Esther. The other children are at home with the parents. Mr. and Mrs. Meinen are active members of the German Lutheran church, and have long been prominent in the social and the church life of the

community. They take great pleasure in the development of the social and moral conditions of their home district, and are held in the highest regard by all.

Politically, Henry Meinen is identified with the Republican party, and has always taken an active interest in the civic life of the township and the county. Being a man of excellent judgment, his advice and influence are often sought in matters of public concern. For a number of years he served as a director of his school district.

MICHAEL VONDRAK.

Michael Vondrak, a native of Bohemia and now one of the well-known and successful farmers of Perry township, Plymouth county, Iowa, was born on July 15, 1870, and is the son of John and Anna Vondrak, both of whom were natives of that country and came to the United States some forty years ago. They first located at Cleveland, Ohio, where they remained but a few months, when they came to Iowa. After a short stay in Sioux City, they came to Plymouth county, where Mr. Vondrak purchased eighty acres of land in Perry township. This he developed and became successful, owning at the time of his death, on September 7, 1900, at the age of sixty-seven years, two hundred and forty acres of the finest of Iowa land. Mrs. Vondrak died in 1896, at the age of sixty-four years.

John and Anna Vondrak were active members of the Catholic church and their lives were an exemplification of the teachings of the true Christian faith. They were the parents of the following children: Joseph, now deceased; Frank, Mary, Stazy and Michael. Mr. Vondrak took much interest in the permanent improvement of the township and county and is one of the men to whom the district owes much for converting the wild prairie land into well-cultivated fields, excellent buildings and improved roads.

Michael Vondrak received his education in the common schools of Iowa and was reared on the home farm, attending school in the winter months and assisting his father in the summer time.

On May 18, 1895, Mr. Vondrak was united in marriage to Mary Poradek, who was born in Bohemia on July 20, 1874. Her arents, Bartholomew and Mary (Kudrle) Poradek, came with their family to the United States in 1885. After a few months' residence in Liberty township, Plymouth county, Iowa, the family took up their residence on a farm in Perry township. This

farm was developed and improved and in time became one of the desirable places in the township. It was here that Mr. Poradek engaged in farming and stock raising until the time of his death, April 18, 1904. Mrs. Poradek is now living at Sioux City.

To Michael and Mary Vondrak have been born the following children: Frances, John, Arthur and Clarence. Frances is now the wife of Adolph Kovarna, a successful young farmer of the county. Mr. and Mrs. Vondrak, as well as the members of their family, are members of the Catholic church and are a most highly respected people. They own a splendid farm of one hundred and twenty acres, being the old homestead of Mr. Vondrak's father. Mr. Vondrak is a most successful and industrious farmer and a patriotic citizen, and his life is another evidence of the respect and loyalty to our institutions manifested by our foreign-born citizens.

FRANZ JOSEPH KROGMANN.

Of the men of foreign birth who have come to the United States and located in Plymouth county, Iowa, where they have met with financial success and have won a place of influence among the residents of the county, is Franz Joseph Krogmann, a well known farmer and stockman of America township, who was born in Oldenburg, Germany, on September 23, 1853, being the son of Franz and Carolina Krogmann, both of whom were natives of that country. The father, who died some years ago, was a farmer in his native land and there spent his life in that work. The mother, after the death of her husband, came to America and located in Dubuque county, Iowa, where she lived some years, but died in Osceola county. There were three children in the family: Franz Joseph, Henry, of Ashton, Iowa, and Ferdinand, of Osceola county.

Franz Joseph Krogmann received his education in Germany, where he lived until he was sixteen years of age, when he came alone to America. He located in Dubuque county, where, for eight years, he worked as a farm hand, when he moved to Carroll county, and there engaged in farming for seven years. He next located in Sioux county, Iowa, where he purchased eighty acres of land, which he developed and improved, and later sold, after which he purchased two hundred and eighty acres of land in Osceola county, where he remained until 1910, when he came to Plymouth county, where he bought one hundred and sixty acres of land in America township, to which

he has since added one hundred and seventy acres. This he has developed into one of the ideal farms of the township and is engaged in general farming and stock raising, having met with success.

Franz Joseph Krogmann was united in marriage, in Carroll county, to Gertrude Hersterkamp, a native of Westphalia and the daughter of Anton and Elizabeth (Meinenn) Hersterkamp. Her parents also were natives of that country and there received their education in the public schools and were later married. They continued to reside in the land of their nativity until 1881, when they decided to come to America. On their arrival in the United States they came direct to Iowa and for a time lived in Dubuque county, later establishing their home in Carroll county, where the father died some years ago. The mother now makes her home with Mr. and Mrs. Krogmann. Mrs. Krogmann was one of seven children, the others being William, Barney, Mary, Annie, Rosie and Lizzie.

To Franz Joseph and Gertrude Krogmann have been born three children, Anton, Joseph and Mary. Anton is now farming at home with his father; Joseph married Mary Alberling and is a successful farmer of America township, and Mary is the wife of Joseph Wersinger, a native of Alsace-Lorraine, Germany, and came to the United States in 1886, with his parents, Alvia and Albertine Wersinger. The parents located for a time in Brown county, Minnesota, and later established their home in Dubuque county. After nine years, they located in Marion township, Plymouth county, where they remained until some years ago, when they moved to Lawrenceburg, Tennessee, where they now reside. Joseph and Mary Krogmann Wersinger are the parents of four children, Helen, Gertrude, Arthur and Lawrence.

Franz Joseph and Gertrude Krogmann are active members of the Catholic church and have long been prominent in the social life of the community in which they live and where they are held in the highest regard and esteem by all who know them. Their children were reared in the faith of th church and are now communicants in that denomination at Le Mars, Iowa.

Politically, Mr. Krogmann is identified with the Democratic party and has always taken a keen interest in local affairs, though he has not been an office seeker. His life has been an active one and by his own efforts he has accomplished much in a financial way. He has devoted his life to farming and stock raising and has also taken much interest in the care of bees, in which he has had marked success. Mr. and Mrs. Krogmann are pleasing people to meet and take great pleasure in the entertainment of their friends. For some years Mr. Krogmann has been retired from the more active duties of the farm.

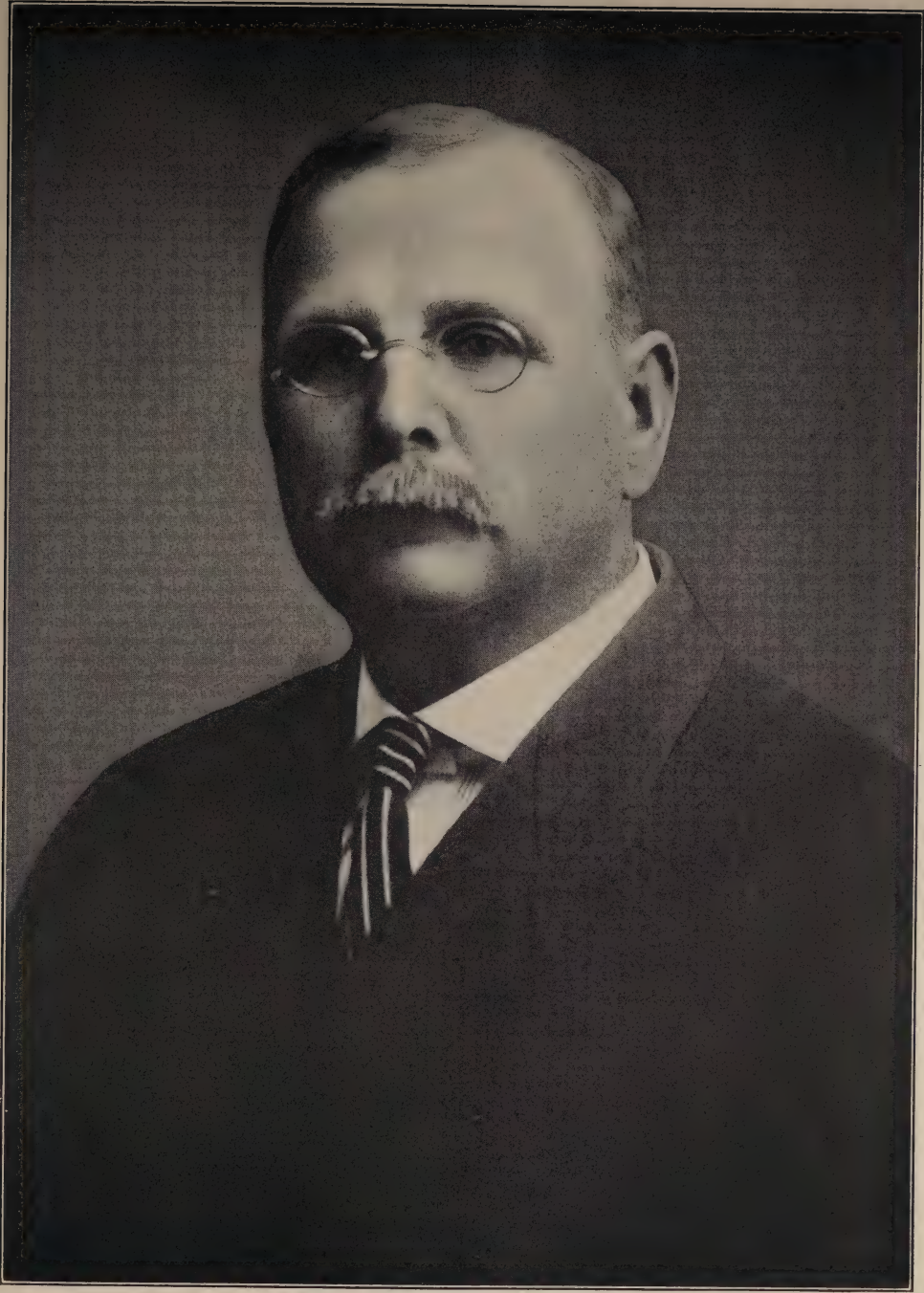
OLIVER C. BROWN.

One of the leading men of affairs of Plymouth county is Oliver C. Brown, owner and president of the Bank of Hinton. He has been upright in his dealings with his fellow men and has never been reluctant in lending his support to the advancement of causes looking to the general welfare of his community. No man has been better known or more influential in Hungerford and America townships for the past two decades, and yet he is a plain, unassuming gentleman, contented to lead a quiet life and be regarded only as a good citizen.

Mr. Brown was born in Carroll county, Illinois, December 29, 1858. He is a son of John and Sarah A. (Miller) Brown. Amdie Brown, the grandfather, was a farmer in Maryland and died at Hagerstown. Jacob Miller, the maternal grandfather, was a native of Maryland, and he came to Carroll county, Illinois, in pioneer days, where he spent his latter days on a farm, dying there. John Brown, mentioned above, was born in Hagerstown, Maryland, in 1831. He came to Carroll county, Illinois, when young, with the rest of the family, and there he was married in 1851. He came to Plymouth county, Iowa, in 1884, and bought two hundred acres of land near Le Mars, but sold out fifteen years later and retired, spending his last years near Le Mars, where his death occurred on July 6, 1915, when eighty-four years of age. His wife died in August, 1913. To these parents the following children were born: George, Oliver C., B. L., J. F. (deceased), and C. P., who lives in Newell, Iowa.

Oliver C. Brown grew up on the farm in Carroll county, Illinois, and attended the rural schools there. On February 15, 1883, he married Katherine Lamp, and to their union the following children were born: Clyde L., who married Katherine Berger and lives on a farm near Le Mars; Harry C., who married Grace H. Boon, of Junction City, Kansas; Clarence V., who is at school at Des Moines, and Oliver M., in high school.

After his marriage Oliver C. Brown came to Iowa and located on a farm near Hinton, in this county, but the following autumn moved to Stanton township where he resided five years, then moved to America township and farmed there ten years; then moved to another vicinity in the same township, where he continued general farming with his usual success until 1907, when he bought the Bank of Hinton of Robert M. Crouch, who organized it in 1900. Mr. Brown has since been sole owner and president of the bank and his son, Harry C. Brown, is cashier. They do a general banking busi-



OLIVER C. BROWN

ness, which has been growing steadily and satisfactorily from the start. Mr. Brown built a substantial and attractive bank building, also a drug store building and garage in Hinton. He operates a large garage under the firm name of O. C. Brown & Son. They do a large business and have handled the Ford and Buick automobiles for seven years. The new brick garage building is twenty-seven by ninety feet. The drug store building, which is part of the bank building, was erected in 1913 and is thirty-four by seventy feet. Mr. Brown also owns four hundred acres of excellent and well-improved farming land in Plymouth county.

Politically, Mr. Brown is a Republican. He has served as a member of the town board, and was school treasurer for twelve years, while living in America township, and was president of the board for some time. Fraternally, he belongs to Floyd Valley Lodge No. 208, Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. He is well known throughout the county and is highly esteemed by all classes, for he has always tried to live up to the Golden Rule and his record is that of an upright, public-spirited citizen.

FRANCIS M. ROLLINS.

Francis M. Rollins, one of the well-to-do farmers and stockmen of Perry township, was born in Paulding county, Ohio, on August 8, 1862, being the son of Francis and Alvina (Jeffery) Rollins.

The parents of Francis M. Rollins were also natives of Paulding county and there lived their lives. The father was a farmer and owned a small farm of forty acres, on which he died many years ago. The father was a soldier of the Civil War and saw much active service in his three years of active service. He was the father of five children, Emma J., Francis M., Luzety, Katherine and Henry. Emma J. and Katherine are now deceased; Luzety is living in Ohio and Henry is a resident of Redland, California.

When the subject of this sketch was eleven years of age his father died and he was taken into the home of Mr. Conn until after the marriage of his mother to Jacob May. By this union Mrs. May is the mother of Jack May.

Francis M. Rollins received his education in the public schools of his native state and there grew to manhood on the farm. He has devoted his life to agricultural work and, as a young man, came to Iowa. He first

engaged in farming for himself in Battle Creek, Iowa, where he remained nine years, after which he was in Ponka for one year. He then moved to Woodbury county, Iowa, where he farmed for six years, when he came to Plymouth county, where he purchased three hundred and twenty acres of land in section 13, Perry township, where he now resides and where he is successfully engaged in general farming and stock raising. The buildings were on the place when he assumed possession, yet he has made many valuable improvements and has done much to further develop his farm.

On October 29, 1893, Francis M. Rollins was united in marriage to Margaret A. Warnock and to this union four children have been born, as follow: Mary L., Frank E., Ruby and Alva. Mr. and Mrs. Rollins have made many friends during their residence in the county and are held in the highest regard and esteem by all. By hard work and close economy, they have succeeded in making for themselves and their family a beautiful home, in one of the best farming districts of the state. Mr. Rollins has led a useful and honorable life and, since boyhood, has had to depend upon his own resources to a great extent. His life has been a varied one, yet he has always had faith in reaching his highest ambition through the tilling of the soil. Broad-minded and progressive, he is today one of the substantial and successful men of the township.

THOMAS L. ELLIOTT.

Many of the descendants of those hardy people who lived in Scotland, the historic and romantic land of Bruce and Burns, have become honored and respected citizens of the United States, where they have distinguished themselves in art and literature, in the business world, in science, and as tillers of the soil. Among the number who trace their direct lineage to Scotch origin, is Thomas L. Elliott, one of the substantial citizens of Perry township, Plymouth county, who was born in Brant county, Canada, on November 3, 1844, and is the son of Isaac and Mary (Elliott) Elliott.

Thomas Elliott, the paternal grandfather, was a native of Scotland, and there engaged in farming. Isaac Elliott was born in England, as was his wife. They received their education in that country, and after their marriage came to America, locating in Brant county, Canada. There they established their home on a farm, where the father died in 1846. Mr. and Mrs. Elliott were the parents of one child, Thomas L., the subject of this sketch.

Thomas L. Elliott received his education in the schools of Canada, and

was there married on January 19, 1870, to Nancy Frazer, who was born on May 2, 1844, and died on February 10, 1910. Mrs. Elliott was the daughter of John and Nancy (Clark) Frazer, who were natives of Scotland. In 1871 Thomas L. Elliott and wife left their Canadian home and came to the United States and landed at Sioux City. On March 24, of that year, they came to Plymouth county, where Mr. Elliott worked as a farm hand for a time. He also, on March 27, 1871, pre-empted one hundred and sixty acres of land in Perry township in section 8. Here he had a splendid opportunity to show his worth as a pioneer farmer on the broad plains of Iowa. He entered into the development of the place with the spirit of one who is determined to succeed. A house was built and other farm buildings erected, and in time Mr. Elliott became a prosperous farmer. He purchased more land and is today the owner of four hundred acres of excellent land, all of which is under high cultivation and well improved. The grove which he planted is one of the finest in this section, and his buildings are all substantial and well kept. He and his wife were members of the Presbyterian church in Canada, but never transferred their membership to the church of this county.

Mr. Elliott has long been recognized as one of the most substantial citizens of Plymouth county, and is held in high regard. He served his township as trustee, during which time the official duties of the office received the same care that Mr. Elliott always gave to his own business. For the past twenty years he has given much attention to the breeding of Chester White hogs and has raised and fattened many Shorthorn cattle.

Thomas L. and Nancy Elliott were the parents of the following children: Nelson Z., Clarence, James W., and Garnet W. Nelson Z. married Elsie Griffith, daughter of Samuel Griffith and wife of Leeds, Iowa. Nelson Z. Elliott, who was born on October 21, 1872, is now the oldest living native-born resident of Perry township. He lives on the home place and operates the farm in connection with his own farm of eighty acres in the township. Clarence is a resident of St. Joseph, Missouri, where he is a government inspector of meats. His wife was Vera Prindle. James W. Elliott married Myrtle Van Dusen, and their home is in Burlington, Vermont, where Mr. Elliott is professor of civil engineering in the State University. Garnet W. married Martha Sterling and they are living on a farm in the Rainy river district, Canada.

Few men in Plymouth county are held in greater respect than is Thomas L. Elliott. Coming to the county as he did, a young man in full vigor in an early day, he has had much to do with the development of the district. Being a man of broad views he always advocated the highest class of improvements, and was a strong advocate of the best school system possible.

CHARLES BEITELSPACHER.

Russia, one of the great nations of the world, that has made remarkable advances during the past few years, in governmental, scientific, educational and agricultural development, has given to the United States many of her best men and women, who have become successful in the affairs of this country. Among this number is Charles Beitelspacher, a well-known farmer of Grant township, Plymouth county, Iowa, who was born in Odessa, Russia, on February 26, 1857, and is the son of Fred and Freda (Ott) Beitelspacher. The parents were also natives of that country and were there educated, married and lived their lives in their native land. The father was a man of much ability and exerted much influence in his local community. He was a farmer and owned six hundred acres of land. He and his wife were active members of the Lutheran church and reared their children in the faith of that denomination. There were nine children in the family, as follows: Christian, Fred, John, Gottleib, Carolina, Christina, Louisa, Sophia and Charles, all of whom are living in their native land with the exceptions of John and Charles, the former of whom is a resident of Lowry, South Dakota.

Charles Beitelspacher was educated in the Lutheran school of his native land and at the age of sixteen years he engaged as an apprentice in a wagon shop, where he remained for three years. He then came alone to the United States, landing in this country in 1876. He at once went to Yankton, South Dakota, where he worked for a year as a farm hand, after which he went to Elk Point, South Dakota, where he also worked on a farm for a year. He then came to Le Mars, Iowa, where one of his first jobs was assisting in the shingling of the old Iowa Central railroad depot and for which he received twenty-five cents per day and boarded himself. He then engaged for three years on the farm, working by the month. He later went to Grant township, where he rented land for two years and then purchased eighty acres of land where he now lives. The tract at that time was all wild prairie land and without improvements of any kind. This he later developed and improved and here he engaged in general farming and stock raising, in which he was successful, and later added to his farm, until he is now the owner of three hundred and twenty acres of the best of land in the township. In 1903 he built his splendid modern house, and the same year built a fine barn, which was destroyed by fire and which was rebuilt in 1907. Today his farm is one of the best developed and best improved in the township.

On October 23, 1886, Mr. Beitelspacher was united in marriage to Marie

Eden, of Jones county, Iowa, and the daughter of Melchert and Cathrina Eden, both of whom were natives of Germany and were early settlers of Grant township, where they died. To Mr. and Mrs. Beitelspacher were born the following children: Fred, Louisa, Marie, Annie, Katie, Henry, Clara, Caroline and Oscar. Fred received his education in the common schools and at St. Paul, Minnesota, where he attended school for seven years and is now a Lutheran minister at Rockwell City, Iowa; the other children are at home with the parents.

Mr. Beitelspacher began life as a farmer in Plymouth county, with little or no capital, and it has been by hard work and economy that he has risen to be one of the successful and substantial men of the township. He devotes his time to mixed farming and the raising of high-grade cattle, Poland China hogs and draft horses. He has always taken much interest in local affairs and is identified with the Democratic party, yet he has never aspired to office, preferring to devote his time and attention to his family and his farm and stock. He and his wife are active members of the Lutheran church and have reared their children in that faith.

GEORGE B. MAIN.

George B. Main, former postmaster at Westfield, this county, for years a well-known merchant of that village and now and for some years past engaged in operating a fine farm of nearly three hundred acres in Westfield township, is a native of the state of Illinois, born at Wilmington, Will county, May 16, 1861, son of Chester and Tamar Main, natives of the great Empire state, whose last days were spent in Illinois.

Chester Main was born at Canandaigua, New York, and his wife was born at Palmyra, same state. Some time after their marriage they moved to Michigan and remained there, farming, until 1846, when they moved to Illinois, settling in Will county, where they bought a small farm, presently buying more land, until they became the owners of two hundred and eighty acres. Upon their retirement from the farm Mr. and Mrs. Main moved to Wilmington, in Will county, where their last days were spent, his death occurring in 1907, at eighty-nine years of age, and hers in 1909, she being ninety years of age at the time of her death. They were the parents of seven children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the sixth in order of birth, the others being as follow: Fred, who is engaged in mercantile pursuits in

Arkansas; Helen, widow of F. D. Gay, now living in the state of Washington; Frank, living at Kalamazoo, Michigan; William, a retired farmer, living at Elk Point, South Dakota; Belle, who married George Shefler and is now living at Portland, Oregon, and Sidney, who died at the age of twelve years.

Reared on a farm in Will county, Illinois, George B. Main received his education in the schools of that neighborhood and from the days of his boyhood was a valued assistant to his father in the work of improving and developing the home place. When he was twenty-one years of age he and his brother, William, rented the home place and operated the same until his marriage in 1885, when he took full charge of the place and farmed it for three years. At the end of that time he came to this part of the country, bought a quarter of a section of land in Union county, South Dakota, in the vicinity of Elk Point, and there established his home. He built a house and barn and there made his home for five years, at the end of which time he sold the place and moved over the river to Plymouth county and started in business at Westfield. There he built a store building and put in a stock of general merchandise, to which he added as the requirements of his growing trade demanded, until he became one of the leading merchants in the village. Not long after locating at Westfield, Mr. Main was appointed postmaster there and held that position for years. At that time Westfield had no bank and, in addition to his general business, he did the local banking business for the people of that community, handling the farmers' grain checks and in other ways attending to such business as usually is conducted by a bank. Mr. Main was in business at Westfield for nine years, or until 1902, when he sold his store and moved onto a farm of two hundred and sixteen acres he had bought the year before in section 3 of Sioux township. There he built a comfortable farm house and otherwise improved the place and made his home there until the spring of 1914, when he moved to a fine, new, modern house he had caused to be erected for his use in Westfield and where he and his family are now very pleasantly situated. Mr. Main continues, however, to give his personal attention to his extensive farming interests and drives back and forth from his home to his farm in his automobile. In addition to his general farming, he is giving considerable attention to the raising of high-grade live stock and is doing very well. Mr. Main is a Republican and for years has given his close attention to local civic affairs. In addition to his long service as postmaster at Westfield, he has served as a township officer in various capacities and is now a member of the Westfield school board. When the ground was being cleared for Westfield's fine new school building, Mr. Main bought the old frame school building, moved it to an adjoining lot, remodeled it and

turned it over to the town as a place for public meetings of all proper purposes, giving it rent free.

In 1885 George B. Main was united in marriage to Cora B. Franklin, who also was born in Illinois, and to this union three children have been born, Grace, who married Miles P. Spaulding, of the firm of E. H. Spaulding & Sons, proprietors of "Ridgeview Stock Ranch" at Westfield; George Edwin, deceased, and Florence, who is at home with her parents.

JOSEPH BECKER.

Joseph Becker, one of Plymouth township's progressive and up-to-date farmers, is a native son of Plymouth county and has lived here all his life. He was born on a pioneer farm in section 30 of Lincoln township on May 9, 1874, son of Fredoline and Catherine (Hefty) Becker, who were born in Switzerland, became pioneers of this county and here spent their last days.

Fredoline Becker was born in Canton Glaris, Switzerland, and when a young man, came to the United States and proceeded West to the state of Illinois, where he remained for a short time, presently going out to Plattsmouth, Nebraska, freighting, and from there to Denver, Colorado. After a few years he returned to Illinois and began working there as a drayman. He was married there and in 1868 came to Iowa and proceeded on over to this part of the state, settling in Plymouth county, among the very earliest pioneers of this county. Upon coming here, Fredoline Becker homesteaded eighty acres of land in section 30 of Lincoln township and there established his home. He was successful in his farming operations and gradually increased his land holdings until he became the owner of six hundred and seventeen and one-half acres of land and was accounted one of the most substantial pioneer farmers of Plymouth county. His wife died in 1888 and he survived for more than twenty years, his death occurring on August 17, 1909. They were the parents of ten children, six of whom are still living, those besides the subject of this sketch being Mrs. R. I. Dabb, Henry, Mrs. Anna Abbott, Mrs. Amelia Gnash and J. P. Becker.

Joseph Becker was reared on the home farm in Lincoln township and supplemented his schooling in the local schools by a course in a business college at Sioux City. Later he and his brother, Henry, began farming in partnership and for five years were thus engaged together, at the end of

which time Joseph Becker bought a quarter of a section in Washington township and there began to farm on his own account, remaining there for five years, at the end of which time, he meantime having married, he moved to his wife's farm of three hundred and thirty-three acres in Plymouth township, where he is now living and where he and his family are very pleasantly situated. In addition to his general farming, Mr. Becker gives considerable attention to the raising of live stock, feeding about one hundred and fifty head of hogs a year and raising a good grade of cattle. He is a Democrat, but has not been included in the office-seeking class.

In 1899 Joseph Becker was united in marriage to Christian Schneider, who was born in this county, daughter of Henry Schneider and wife, pioneers of Plymouth county, further mention of whom is made elsewhere in this volume, and to this union four children have been born, Dorothea Katherine, Elma Eunice and Alice Mildred (twins) and Raymond Jacob. The Beckers are members of the United Evangelical church and Mr. Becker is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and of the Knights of Pythias, in the affairs of which organizations he takes a warm interest.

FRED ONKEN.

Fred Onken, a well-known and successful farmer of Grant township, Plymouth county, Iowa, was born in Dixon, Illinois, on February 26, 1879, son of John and Henrietta (Dirks) Onken, both of whom were natives of Germany. John Onken received his education in the land of his nativity and there lived until he was eighteen years of age, when he decided to come to America. On his arrival in this country he at once came to Illinois, locating at Dixon and there worked as a farm hand for ten years and was there married. He later came to Iowa, where he and his family established their home on a farm of eighty acres in section 18, Grant township, Plymouth county. The tract at that time was but little developed and improved, but in time he made it one of the ideal farms of the township and increased his holdings, until he became the owner of five hundred and sixty acres of the best of land, all of which was in Grant township. This he developed and improved and here he engaged in general farming and stock raising until 1905, when he retired from the activities of farm life and moved to Le Mars, where he and his wife now live. They are the parents of the following children: Onno, Kate, Mary, Fred, Sophia, Bertha and two that are deceased.

Fred Onken received his education in the schools of Grant township and grew to manhood on the home farm where he as a lad and young man assisted with the farm work, and remained with his father until the latter's retirement. He now owns two hundred and forty acres of the best land and is engaged in general farming and stock raising. He cultivates on an average of one hundred and sixty acres each year. He raises some ninety head of hogs and a carload of cattle, all of which is placed on the market at the highest prices.

In 1905 Fred Onken was united in marriage to Catherine Doering, the daughter of Albert and Margaret Doering, well known residents of the district. To this union two children have been born, Hannah, and Margaretha, deceased.

Mr. and Mrs. Onken are active members of the German Lutheran church of Grant township and have long been prominent in the social life of the community, where they are held in the highest regard and esteem by all who know them. They have ever taken much interest in the educational and moral development of the township, and their influence has ever been for all that is good and noble in their home community. Mr. Onken is identified with the Republican party and takes much interest in the civic life of the township and the county, yet he does not aspire to office. He is a strong advocate of the highest class of public improvement, and feels that in good schools and good roads the future of the county is assured.

DANIEL J. SEARLS.

Daniel J. Searls, one of Plymouth county's best-known and most substantial pioneer farmers, now living practically retired from the active labors of the farm at his pleasant home in the vicinity of Akron, in Portland township, is a native of the old Buckeye state, but has been a resident of this county since 1882, having come here from Illinois in pioneer days. He was born on a farm in Hinckley, Medina county, Ohio, April 3, 1836, son of Gilbert and Elizabeth (Holstad) Searls, natives of New York state, whose last days were spent in Illinois.

Gilbert Searls was born on June 3, 1811, son of Daniel and Phoebe (Fisher) Searls, also natives of New York state, whose last days were spent in Ohio. Gilbert Searls was married in New York state to Elizabeth Holstad, who was born on March 2, 1811, a daughter of James Holstad and wife,

the former of whom was born on Long Island in 1775, and in 1835 joined his father in the neighborhood of Akron, Ohio. There his father gave him a farm of one hundred and thirty-five acres, on which had been erected the only frame house in that immediate neighborhood. He cultivated that farm, making substantial improvements on the place, until 1857, when he sold out and moved to Winnebago county, Illinois, where he bought a prairie farm of two hundred acres, about forty acres of which had been broken, built a house twenty-two by twenty-eight feet on the same and there he and his wife spent the rest of their lives, his death occurring a few years after his location there, October 11, 1860. His widow survived him many years, her death occurring on May 23, 1907. They were the parents of eight children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the first-born, the others being as follow: William H., now living retired, near Miami, Florida; Stephen, a veteran of the Civil War, now living retired in Illinois; Ambrose, also a veteran of the Civil War, who died at Colorado Springs, Colorado; Celia, widow of Leroy Kidder, living in Illinois; Phoebe, widow of Philip Schwartz, also living in Illinois; Mary Ellen, living in Illinois, and Edwin, who for many years has been the railway station agent at Akron, this county.

Daniel Searls, Sr., father of Gilbert Searls, was born on April 28, 1775, and became a substantial farmer in New York state, where he married. In 1834 he sold his interests in New York and settled in the vicinity of Akron, Ohio, where he bought out seven adjoining farmers, thus acquiring a tract of seven hundred and thirty acres of land, a large part of which had been improved. He had eleven sons, all of whom save two accompanied him to Ohio and, with the assistance of these sons, he developed a fine piece of property in the Akron neighborhood, and there he and his wife spent the remainder of their lives, his death occurring in July, 1854, and hers, in 1860.

Daniel J. Searls received his schooling in Ohio, supplementing the schooling obtained in the district school in the neighborhood of his boyhood home by a course in a boarding school at Hinkley, and was about twenty-one years of age when he moved with his parents to Illinois in 1857. There he assisted his father on the farm until his marriage in the spring of 1860, after which he rented a farm in that same neighborhood and started farming on his own account. After the death of his father in the fall of that year he took charge of the home place and continued to operate the same until after the close of the Civil War, when a division was made, his share in the home farm being a tract of twenty acres. He bought the interest of one of his brothers and on the forty-acre tract thus acquired began farming and remained there until he came to this county. It

was in 1882 that Mr. Searls came out to this part of Iowa on a visit to his brother, Edwin Searls, who had located at Akron, in this county, some time before and while there was besieged by land speculators eager to sell him land in this section. Things were pretty much "in the raw" out here at that time, however, no established roads and the settlers few and far between, and Mr. Searls resisted the efforts of the real-estate men to induce him to invest. Upon his return to Illinois, however, he changed his mind and decided to come out here. To that end, he sold his interests in Illinois and, returning to Plymouth county, bought a tract of three hundred and twenty acres of practically unimproved land in section 28 of Portland township, on which he established his home and where he has lived ever since, for many years having been recognized as one of the most substantial and progressive farmers in that neighborhood. When Mr. Searls took possession of that place it had some small buildings on it and there were but two trees on the place. He planted a fine grove, made valuable improvements in the way of buildings and in due time had an excellent and well-improved farm. In 1896 he practically retired from the active labors of the farm and has since then rented the place to his sons. Mr. Searls is a Republican, his first vote having been cast for Abraham Lincoln, and has ever taken a good citizen's interest in local civic affairs. For four years he served as trustee of Portland township and for three terms served as director of his local school district. Despite his eighty-one years, Mr. Searls is strong and mentally vigorous and takes a keen interest in current affairs. He is one of the real pioneers of Plymouth county and few men in the western part of the county are more accurately informed on the history of the county than he.

On April 3, 1860, Daniel J. Searls was united in marriage to Caroline Comly and to that union eight children were born, namely: Charles A., who is farming near Brookings, South Dakota, married Nora Sargent and has eight children, C. Herbert, Edward George, Roscoe, Burdette, Harry, Paul, Lillian and Donald; Louis, who died at the age of three years; Lillian, who married Jehial Hollister, a lumberman, of San Jose, California; Gilbert, who is farming the old home place, married Emma Snyder and has one child, a daughter, Flora; Frederick, who is farming the place next to the old home place, married Eva Mudget and has two children, Fern and Orville; Isabel, who married Ray Eaton, a farmer, of Winnebago county, Illinois, and has one child, a daughter, Helen; J. Howard, who is farming a place near the old home farm, married Mamie Christieson and has one child, a son, Walter Howard, and Mary Elizabeth, who married Alphonso Adams, a farmer, of Portland township, this county.

WILLIAM FLANNERY.

William Flannery, one of Perry township's well-known and progressive farmers, is a member of the family of Thomas Flannery, which from pioneer days has exerted a wide and useful influence in Plymouth county, particularly throughout the southwestern part of the county, where the elder Flannery became a large landowner in the early days. William Flannery is a native of the Dominion of Canada, but has been a resident of this county since he was seven years of age and has consequently been a witness to and a participant in the development of the county since pioneer days. He was born on February 9, 1864, son of Thomas and Rose (Dorsey) Flannery, who became pioneers of this county and here spent their last days.

Thomas Flannery was a native of Ireland and was seventeen years of age when he immigrated to Canada, where he grew to manhood and where he married Rose Dorsey. In 1871 he came to Iowa with his family and became a pioneer of Plymouth county. Upon coming here he took a homestead of eighty acres in section 4 of Perry township and there established his home, remaining there the rest of his life. Thomas Flannery was a man of much energy and, with the assistance of his sons, not only developed a fine bit of property on the homestead tract, but added to his land holdings until he became the owner of as much as two thousand acres of land in Perry and Liberty townships, all of which land is still in the ownership of the family. One of Thomas Flannery's first acts in the way of developing his homestead place was to put out a fine grove of cottonwood and box-elder trees which grew to be a very attractive feature of the homestead. In 1900 there was cut from that grove eighty-seven thousand feet of lumber and it is estimated that there is at least seventy-five thousand feet still standing. Thomas Flannery erected the substantial residence and farm buildings which still stand on the homestead place. He was active in local public affairs and served as a member of the board of township trustees and in other public capacities. He and his wife were members of the Catholic church and their children were reared in that faith. There were eight of these children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the fifth in order of birth, the others being as follow: Edward, unmarried, who is the owner of two hundred and forty acres of land in Perry and Liberty townships; Thomas, who is the owner of two hundred and forty acres in Liberty township and eighty acres in Perry township; John, the owner of two hundred and forty acres, including the homestead place in Perry township, who married Edith Bonnes and is now living

at No. 712 West Fifth street, Sioux City; Mary Ann, who is keeping house for her unmarried brothers on the old home place; Martin, who owns two hundred and forty acres in Perry township; Nellie, who married W. Ernst and lives in Liberty township, and Rosa, who married A. Beaulieu and died at the age of thirty years.

William Flannery is unmarried and continues to make his home at the old home place in Perry township. He is the owner of four hundred acres in that and in the adjoining township of Liberty and is accounted one of the substantial and progressive farmers of that neighborhood. The Flannerys are members of the Catholic church and take a proper part in parish affairs, as well as in the general social activities of the community, helpful in promoting all agencies designed to advance the common welfare.

JARED P. BLOOD.

Jared P. Blood, one of the prominent and well-known residents of Plymouth county, Iowa, was born in the state of New Hampshire, on January 18, 1844, and is the son of Arnold and Lovina (Newton) Blood. His maternal grandfather, Dexter Newton, was a well-known farmer of southern New Hampshire, and the paternal grandparents, Josiah and Rhoda (Currie) Blood, were tillers of the soil in Coos county, this state.

Arnold and Lovina (Newton) Blood, parents of the subject, were residents of Coos county, and there the father engaged in farming. His death occurred in 1886 at the age of eighty-seven years, and the mother died in 1878, at the age of seventy-eight years. They were the parents of four children, Orange, Livinia, Holman and Jared. Livinia and Jared are the only members of the family now living.

Jared P. Blood received his early education in the local schools of his native state and later attended Lombard University, of Galesburg, Illinois, from which institution he graduated in 1870. After having completed his collegiate course, he studied law and was admitted to the bar in 1874. During his early manhood and before he had completed his education in the university, Mr. Blood enlisted in the Union army, from his native state, and was assigned in 1864 to Company I, First New Hampshire Heavy Artillery. He saw much active campaigning in the Potomac region until June 15, 1865, when he was discharged.

After having been admitted to the bar, Mr. Blood began his career as an

advocate in Sioux City, Iowa, where he formed a partnership with C. R. Marks, which continued for some years, when he established an office for himself. After three years, he became associated with Judge Zuver, and then with John R. Carter, then for some years he maintained an office with F. B. Robinson. Six years ago, owing to ill health, he gave up his law practice and retired to his farm in Perry township, where he has a splendid acreage of land, in addition to much valuable property in Sioux City.

In young manhood, Jared P. Blood was united in marriage to Jennie Hewett, who was born in 1841 and died on October 12, 1908. She was the daughter of Harvey and Miriam (Hunt) Hewett, who were farmers in the state of Illinois. Mr. and Mrs. Blood had no children, and since the death of his wife Mr. Blood has been living alone. He takes much pleasure in the development and management of his farm and, owing to his health, enjoys the beauties of nature as he sees them on his beautiful country home.

Fraternally, Mr. Blood is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons and has long been active as a member of the Grand Army of the Republic. As an advocate he held a high position among the members of the bar, and had the confidence and respect of the people of the district.

GEORGE NUSSBAUM.

The German people, noted for their educational institutions, their economy and progressive spirit, have given to the United States many of her most prominent and successful people, who have met with success in all walks of life, among the number being George Nussbaum, a well-known farmer and stockman of Elgin township, Plymouth county, Iowa, who was born in the fatherland on November 16, 1864, the son of Melcher and Julia (Schafer) Nussbaum.

Melcher and Julia Nussbaum were also natives of Germany and there received their education in the public schools, grew to manhood and womanhood and were married. After their marriage they established their home on a farm, where Mr. Nussbaum engaged in agricultural work until the time of his death, in 1887, at the age of sixty-seven years. The widow is still living in the land of her birth and amid the scenes of her younger life, at the age of eighty-four years. She belongs to the Evangelical Reformed church in which her husband was for many years an active worker. They were the parents of nine children, as follow: Jacob, one of the well-known and

highly respected retired farmers of Le Mars, Iowa; Elizabeth is still a resident of the fatherland; Henry, now deceased, came to this country in 1880 and located in Crawford county, Iowa; Eliza, who lives in Germany; George, the subject of this sketch; Martin, who is a farmer of near Brookings, South Dakota; Catherine lives in Germany; Conrad is a successful farmer of near Danvers, Minnesota, and Ditmar is engaged in farming and stock raising in South Dakota.

George Nussbaum received his education in the schools of Germany, and as a lad learned the cabinet-maker's trade, at which he was employed in his native land until 1882, when he decided to come to America. After landing in the United States, he came at once to Iowa and located in Crawford county, where he worked as a farm hand for one year. He then came to Plymouth county, where he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in Fredonia township, which he developed and improved and where he farmed for eight years. In 1902 he bought two hundred and forty acres in Elgin township, where he has since resided. Here he has done much in the way of development, and improvement having erected his beautiful house and substantial barn as well as other buildings, at a cost of ten thousand dollars. In addition to the operation of his own farm, he rents one hundred and sixty acres of land, and each year cultivates one hundred and sixty acres of corn and one hundred acres of small grain. He sells the most of his grain, yet he feeds some one hundred head of hogs and some cattle, and is today recognized as one of the substantial and successful men of the district.

In 1894 George Nussbaum was united in marriage to Amelia Behnke, the daughter of Fred Behnke and wife, and to this union six children have been born as follow: Edward, John, Clarence, Conrad, Theo and George, all of whom are at home with the parents. Mr. and Mrs. Nussbaum are active members of the German Evangelical church at Le Mars and are among the prominent members, taking much interest in all departments of the church services.

George Nussbaum was a poor boy, without friends or influence, at the time he came to America. Thrown upon his own resources, he at once determined to accomplish something of value to himself and the world. The first few years were hard ones for the young man, yet he had the determination to do, and from the time that he secured his first job on the farm in Crawford county until the present day, he has always been employed in some useful work. By hard work and close application to business, he has succeeded in establishing for himself a position among the well-to-do and highly respected men of the county. He is progressive in all things and has ever

taken a keen interest in local affairs, his judgment and advice being often sought in matters that pertain to the public welfare. He is identified with the Democratic party, but does not aspire to office, feeling that he can best serve himself and the people in other ways to better advantage.

ANTON WILBERDING.

Anton Wilberding, a well-known and successful farmer of Remsen township, was born in Holorf in Oldenburg, Germany, on May 10, 1863, being the son of Carl and Mary Ann Wilberding. Carl and Mary Ann Wilberding were both natives of Germany and there they received their education, grew to manhood and womanhood and were married. As a young man, Carl Wilberding engaged in farming and was recognized as a man of much musical ability. He and his family later came to America and located in Dyersville, Iowa, where he died the next year.

Anton Wilberding received his education in the schools of Germany and there grew to manhood. When he was nineteen years of age, he came to the United States, locating in Dubuque county, Iowa, where he worked as a farm hand for five years. He then rented land for five years, and in 1892 he came to Plymouth county. Here he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in Remsen township, where he has since resided. At the time Mr. Wilberding located on the farm in the spring of 1892, the place was, for the most part, undeveloped and unimproved. Since that time he has placed all the present improvements and developed his land, until he has it under a high state of cultivation. Here he is engaged in general farming and stock raising and, in connection with this work, he has done much cement contract work in the country. He generally farms some seventy-five acres of corn and forty acres of small grain, all of which he feeds on the place. He keeps about eighty head of hogs and some cattle.

In 1888 Anton Wilberding was united in marriage to Elizabeth Feldmann, the daughter of Joseph Feldmann and wife. To this union thirteen children have been born, eleven of whom are now living, Joe, Charles, Ida, Mathilda, Herman, Clara, Regina, Anton, Frances, Oliva and Linus. Joe married Cecelia Meyer; Ida is the wife of Art Delperdang; Mathilda married Fred Rupp; the others of the family are still single and at home. Mr. and Mrs. Wilberding, with their family, are active members of the St. Mary's Catholic church at Remsen and take much interest in all church work. They

are prominent in the social and religious life of the community and are held in highest regard and esteem by all who know them.

It has been only by hard work and good management that Mr. and Mrs. Wilberding have succeeded with their life work. In 1914 Mr. Wilberding visited Italy and was received in audience by Pope Pius X. He also visited Switzerland, France, Germany and Holland and was in Germany when the war started.

JOHN MCGILLVERY.

John McGillvery, deceased, who was one of the pioneer farmers of Preston township, was born on April 24, 1843, of Scotch parentage. His father died when he was but two years of age and the mother, soon after the death of her husband, moved to Rochester, New York, leaving the son with an uncle, William Russell. It was with this uncle that John McGillvery lived and went to school, until he was twelve years of age. His mother having married Isaac Haygreen, he then lived with her in Rochester for two years, when the family moved to Dupage county, Illinois, where the mother died two years later. Then after one year of residence in Burlington, Kane county, Illinois, with his step-father, John McGillvery returned to Dupage county, where he lived until the outbreak of the Civil War, when he enlisted in Company F, One Hundred and Fifth Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry. After three years of active service, he returned to Burlington, where he purchased forty acres of land, and there engaged in farming for two years. He then came to Plymouth county, where he took a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres in Preston township. The place was at that time all wild prairie, but he entered into the task of development with a determination to succeed and his farm was soon one of the desirable places in the township. He purchased more land and at one time was the owner of four hundred and forty acres of most excellent land. He engaged in general farming and stock raising and became one of the substantial men of the county. He always took an active interest in local affairs and had much to do with the growth and development of the district. His life was an active one and by hard work and perseverance he was successful. His death was mourned by all, for they knew that a good man was gone from their midst. His wife died in 1890. They were active members of the Presbyterian church and always took an active interest in all church work.

John McGillvery was united in marriage in 1866 to Christine Johnson, of Burlington, Illinois, and to this union the following children were born: Susan Ann, Emma, John, Laura, Lurn, William, Arthur, Herbert and Christine.

JOHN ALESH.

John Alesh, a well-known farmer and stockman of Meadow township, was born in Luxemburg on October 3, 1868, and is the son of Nicholas and Margaret (Tentinger) Alesh, both of whom were natives of that country. The father was a farmer and spent his life in that work. His death occurred on May 5, 1904, and the mother died on November 8, 1913. They were active members of the Catholic church. They were the parents of eleven children as follow: Susie, John, Mary, Elvira, Gust, Jennie, Joseph, Louise Leo, Rosalie, and John, the last named being deceased. The children are all residents of their native land, with the exceptions of John, Gustave, Joseph and Leo. Joseph lives in Cherokee county, Iowa, where he is engaged in farming, and Leo lives with his brother, John.

John Alesh received his education in the public and parochial schools of his native land, where he grew to manhood. In 1889 he decided to leave the land of his birth and the scenes of his childhood and young life and come to America. On landing in the United States he came at once to Iowa, and for three years he worked as a farm hand for Henry Wenner, of Plymouth county. He later married the latter's daughter, Maggie.

Henry Wenner, today one of the well-known retired farmers of Remsen, Plymouth county, Iowa, was born in Luxemburg, February 15, 1847, and is the son of John and Anna (Mosler) Wenner. The father, as a young man, learned the tailor trade, at which he worked for many years, but later engaged in farming. He and his wife died in their native land some years ago. They were devout members of the Catholic church and took much interest in all church work. They were the parents of eleven children, three of whom, Margaret, Mary and Henry, are now in America.

Henry Wenner received his education in the schools of his native country and worked as a farm hand until he was nineteen years of age, when he came to the United States. He located in Dubuque county, where he worked as a farm hand until 1874, when he came to Plymouth county and rented a farm three miles east of Le Mars, where he engaged in farming for two years, when he bought eighty acres of land at seven dollars per acre. The tract at

that time was all wild prairie, on which he erected a small house and at once began the task of developing his new possession. A grove was planted, the tough prairie sod was broken and in time he began to prosper as a farmer and stockraiser. He added to his land and became the owner of three hundred and forty acres. This he improved with the best of buildings and continued to be actively engaged in his chosen work until 1903, when he retired from the more active duties of life and moved to Remsen, where he now lives.

In 1870 Henry Wenner was united in marriage to Anna Faber, the daughter of John and Katherine (May) Faber, and to this union the following children were born: Margaret, Katherine, Elizabeth, Matilda, Anna, May, Isabelle, Clara, Rose, Regena and Henry. Mr. Wenner has always taken much interest in local affairs and has had much to do with the physical development, as well as the civic and social life, of the township. He served for many years as a member of the school board and was township trustee and assessor. He and his wife have for many years been prominent in the social life of the community in which they have so long lived and where they are held in the highest regard and esteem by all who know them. They are devout members of the Catholic church and take much interest in all church work.

To John and Maggie Alesh have been born ten children, as follow: Henry, Alvira, Marcelinda, Matilda, Leonard, Mary, Joseph, Lawrence, John and Margaret. These children were all educated in the public schools and the parochial schools at Marcus and Remsen. For two years after their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Alesh lived on the farm of Mr. Wenner, after which they moved to the farm of Wausorms Brothers, where they remained for ten years, when they purchased one hundred and sixty acres in section 36, Meadow township, Plymouth county, where they now live. They built their present beautiful house in 1904 and their splendid barn, fifty-six by sixty-four feet, with twenty-two foot posts, a few years later. The farm is one of the well improved and thoroughly developed in the township, and here Mr. Alesh is successfully engaged in general farming and stockraising. Today he has some of the finest of Shorthorn cattle, Duroc-Jersey hogs and Percheron horses. In addition to his own farm, he operates an additional two hundred and forty acres, and each year cultivates some one hundred and fifty acres of corn and eighty-five acres of small grain, being recognized as one of the most successful and substantial farmers in the county.

Politically, Mr. Alesh is an independent voter and has always taken a keen interest in local affairs, having for four years served as school director

of his district. He and his wife have always taken the greatest of interest in the development of the schools of the township and during the administration of Mr. Alesh as a director he used his best effort to place them on a high scale of efficiency. He and his wife are active members of the Catholic church at Remsen and they have reared their children in the faith of that long-established church.

John Alesh came to America a poor boy, without friends and without financial support, and by his own efforts and hard work he has won for himself a place among the substantial men of the community, where he has many good friends, who hold him and his wife and children in the highest regard and esteem. Mr. and Mrs. Alesh are most pleasing people and extend their hospitality to all.

ALEX R. MORRISON:

Alex R. Morrison, a well-known and prominent farmer of Preston township, was born at Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, on September 15, 1860, being the son of Alexander and Katherine (Ross) Morrison.

Alexander and Katherine Morrison were both natives of Nova Scotia, where they were educated, grew to manhood and womanhood and were married. They lived the greater part of their lives in their native land, and there their children were born and reared. As a young man, Mr. Morrison learned the blacksmith trade, at which he devoted many years of his life. He was also a landowner, but rented the greater part of his farm and devoted his time to his trade. Mr. and Mrs. Morrison continued to live in their native land until 1904, when they came to Plymouth county and here made their home with their son, Alex R., until the time of their deaths. Mr. Morrison, who was born in 1821, died in 1905, the next year after coming to Iowa. Mrs. Morrison was born in 1827 and died in 1910. They were active members of the Presbyterian church and took much interest in all church work. They are buried in the cemetery near the Presbyterian church in Preston township. They were the parents of the following children: Robert, Mary Ann, John, Alex R., Christina, Roderick, Hannah Bell, Katherine and two who died in infancy. John died when but a child.

Alex R. Morrison received his education in the schools of Nova Scotia and was reared in the old home. As a lad and young man, he assisted his father some on the farm and about the shop and learned the carpenter trade. He later became a sailor and spent four years of his young life on the Atlantic

ocean. In 1882 he gave up his life on the water and came to the United States, locating at Le Mars, Iowa, where he established himself as a carpenter, at which he worked until 1900. At that time he moved to Preston township, where he rented two hundred acres of land, which he farmed for five years. He then purchased one hundred and twenty acres of land section 36, Preston township. The farm, at the time Mr. Morrison assumed possession, was fairly well improved, but since that time he has remodeled the house, making it more modern and convenient, built a new barn and has made many other improvements that have added to the beauty and value of the place, which today is recognized as one of the attractive farms of the township. Mr. Morrison believes in intensive farming as much as it is possible to practice it in this country. He raises excellent crops of wheat, oats and alfalfa, as well as much corn, the greater part of the product of his farm being fed on the place. He generally has from thirty to forty head of good cattle and one hundred head of Duroc-Jersey hogs.

In 1890, Alex R. Morrison was united in marriage to Susan Ann McGillvery, a native of Plymouth county, and to this union one child has been born, Christina Catherine, who is now the wife of Henry Collman, a well-known and successful farmer of Preston township. Mr. and Mrs. Morrison are active members of the Presbyterian church and take much interest in all church work. They are prominent in the social life of the community and are held in high regard by all who know them. They have always taken much interest in the moral and social development of the district, and have had much to do with the present high moral standard of the community. They have always advocated the support of the best of schools, and have given of their influence to all worthy causes that tended to the betterment of the township or the county.

Politically, Alex R. Morrison is identified with the Republican party and has long taken an active part in the local organizations of the party. He is not a partisan, but always advocates the placing of the best men possible in the positions of honor and trust. He is a firm believer in the good roads movement, holding that to a great extent the future growth and prosperity of the district depend upon the proper building of the roads. Mr. Morrison has served his township as trustee with much success and has for the past three years served as township clerk.

Fraternally, Alex R. Morrison is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and is a member of the encampment. He has served as past grand of the order, as well as having filled all the chairs, both in the encampment and the subordinate lodge.

HENRY GRUBER.

The United States can boast of no better or more energetic and law-abiding class of citizens than the great number of Germans who have found homes within her borders and whom this country is always ready to welcome to its shores. They have come here with but little means, as a rule, but, imbued with a sturdy independence and a laudable ambition to succeed, they have taken advantage of the wonderful opportunities afforded here and gradually have risen to places of prominence in various lines of activity. Among this number may be mentioned Henry Gruber, a successful farmer of Perry township, who was born in Wurtemberg, Germany, on April 27, 1867. He is the son of John and Margaret Gruber, both of whom were also natives of that country, and there lived and died. Henry Gruber was of a family of six children, the others being Joseph, Wendelen, Victoria, Mary and John. Henry, Wendelen and Victoria were the only members of the family who came to the United States; the other children of the family are still living in their native land.

Henry Gruber received his education in the fatherland; his English, he has obtained through his associations and reading in this country. Before coming to this country, he served two years in the German army and worked on the farm. In 1894 he decided to seek a home in America. For some time after coming to the United States, he was a resident of Chicago, Illinois. He later came to Woodbury county, Iowa, and, with the financial aid of his sister, he purchased forty acres of land near Oto. This farm he developed and improved, and rented other land, which he operated in connection with his own place. He remained here until 1906, when he sold the place and purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in section 24, Perry township, Plymouth county, where he and his family now reside. The place had been partially developed, but there were no buildings and from the proceeds of his and his family's industry, a good substantial two-story frame house was erected and a small barn built. The place was otherwise improved with a grove and fences. In 1911 the bank barn, forty by forty-eight feet, was built, all of which is supplied with a concrete foundation. Mr. Gruber has met with much success in his general farming and stock raising. He generally keeps from twenty to thirty good cattle and many Chester White hogs. His principal farm products are corn and oats, with some alfalfa.

In March, 1899, Henry Gruber was united in marriage to Anna O'Connell, the daughter of William and Elizabeth O'Connell, of Oto. The father

died on his farm some years ago, and the mother is still living. Mr. and Mrs. Gruber are the parents of two children, William and Rosa. The family are devout members of the Catholic church and are held in high regard in the community. Mr. Gruber is identified with the Democratic party and has served his district as school director.

JOHN B. BRUSCHER.

John B. Bruscher, one of Plymouth county's well-known and substantial farmers and the owner of a fine place comprising a quarter section of land in Marion township, is a native of Germany, but has been a resident of this county since he was twenty-one years of age. He was born in Luxemburg on October 18, 1870, son of Michael and Rite Bruscher, both natives of Luxemburg, who spent all of their lives in their native land. For seven years Michael Bruscher was a soldier of Germany and saw much active service. Upon the completion of his military service he settled down to the life of a farmer and thus continued the rest of his life. He and his wife were the parents of ten children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the only one to come to America.

Reared on a farm in Luxemburg, John B. Bruscher received his schooling in the schools of his native land and remained there until he was twenty-one years of age, when he came to the United States, locating in Chicago, where he remained for a few months, at the end of which time he came to Iowa and settled in Plymouth county, where he ever since has made his home. Upon coming to this county Mr. Bruscher worked for one season on a farm in America township and then worked on different farms, meanwhile saving his money, and eventually was able to buy a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in section 30 of Marion township. Later he sold that place and bought the southwest quarter of section 18 in that same township, where he established his home and where he has ever since resided, long having been regarded as one of the most substantial citizens of that part of the county. He has improved his farm in excellent fashion and, in addition to his general farming, has given considerable attention to the raising of high grade live stock and has done very well. In his political views Mr. Bruscher is independent, but has ever given thoughtful attention to local civic affairs.

On January 20, 1904, John B. Bruscher was united in marriage to Margaret Schroeder, who was born in Marion township, this county, a daughter

of John Schroeder and wife, pioneers of that part of the county, further mention of whom is made in a biographical sketch relating to Mr. Schroeder, presented elsewhere in this volume, and to this union seven children were born: Margaret, Anna, Helen, Justine, Cecelia, Anandas and Mathew. Mr. and Mrs. Bruscher are members of the Catholic church of St. Kathryn at Oyens and take proper interest in the affairs of that parish, as well as in the general social activities of the community in which they live.

FRANK VAN BUSKIRK.

One of the well-known and successful farmers of Preston township, is Frank Van Buskirk, who was born near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, on December 1, 1856, being the son of Ferdinand and Louisa Van Buskirk.

Ferdinand and Louisa Van Buskirk were also natives of Pennsylvania, where they were educated in the public schools, and there grew to manhood and womanhood and were married. They were of the farming class and, as a lad and young man, Ferdinand Van Buskirk assisted his father in the work on the home place. After he had completed his education, he engaged in the work for himself. After his marriage, he and his family continued to live in the state of their nativity, and there Mr. Van Buskirk died in the early sixties. After his death, Mrs. Van Buskirk, with her children, came to Iowa, and for a time located in Scott county. They later moved to Jones county and there Mrs. Van Buskirk married B. W. Curtis. After their marriage they continue to reside in Jones county, but later moved to Ridgeway, where Mrs. Curtis died in 1909, at the age of seventy-six years.

By Ferdinand Van Buskirk, Louisa Van Buskirk was the mother of two children, Frank and Will, the latter of whom is now a resident of Akron. By Mr. Curtis she was the mother of one child, Archie Curtis, who resides in Ridgeway, Missouri.

Frank Van Buskirk received his education in the public schools and for a time made his home with his grandparents. At the age of sixteen years, he was employed as a farm hand in the summers and in the winters attended school. He continued to work as a farm hand until he was twenty-one years of age, at which time he was married and began farming for himself in Scott county, Iowa. For three years he rented one hundred and twenty acres, which he operated, after which he went to Calhoun county, where, with his brother Will, he rented one hundred and sixty acres of wild prairie land.

The soil had never been broken and it was with much difficulty that they prepared it for cultivation. For three years they farmed the place and then came to Plymouth county in 1887. On their arrival in this county, Frank Van Buskirk purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in section 4, Preston township. The tract at that time was for the most part undeveloped and unimproved. There was a small house on the place, which was unfinished, and this, with an old barn and a few trees, were the only improvements on the place. Some effort had been made to break some of the land, but it might well be said that the tract was still in its virgin state. In the place Mr. Van Buskirk realized the possibilities of a good farm, but at the same time he knew of the great amount of work and hardship that must be endured before the land could be brought into a productive state. He at once began the task of development and improvement and was soon engaged as a successful farmer and stock man. He later built a splendid house, a good barn and many other valuable buildings, that have added much to the convenience and the value of the place. He has a beautiful grove and one of the best orchards in the county. His buildings are all in the best state of repair and are nicely located, giving a most pleasing effect to the rest of the farm. As he prospered, Mr. Van Buskirk invested in more land and is today the owner of six hundred and eighty acres of excellent land, all of which is under high cultivation and well improved. He manages three hundred and twenty acres of the place, while two of his sons operate the balance of the farm. As a farmer and stock man, Mr. Van Buskirk is recognized as a thorough and successful general farmer and stock man. He has some fifty head of the finest of Shorthorn cattle and one hundred and fifty head of high-grade Duroc-Jersey hogs. He raises much wheat and usually has about one hundred acres in this crop. He also raises much corn and oats.

In 1880 Frank Van Buskirk was united in marriage to Lottie Negus, a native of Davenport, Iowa, and the daughter of Frank and Elizabeth Negus. Mr. and Mrs. Negus were prominent residents of Davenport and took much interest in the social and the educational life of the city. While living there, Mr. Negus was prominent in the business life of the place and was for many years a well-known grain buyer. Mr. and Mrs. Negus, who are now deceased, were the parents of the following children: Jennie, Lucy, Mary, Benjamin, Henry, Lottie and Frank.

To Frank and Lottie Van Buskirk have been born the following children: Roy, Louisa, William, Frank, Ira, Sylvia and Seward. Roy married Lillie Jenkins and now lives at Sioux City, Iowa; they are the parents of two

children, Cleo and Iris; Louisa is the wife of Alphonso Gamble, of Sioux City, and they are the parents of two children, Lyle and Helen; William is at home; Frank, who is now farming a part of the home place, married Lottie Allison and they are the parents of one child, Seward; Ira married Maude Voverka and is now farming a part of his father's place; he and his wife are the parents of one child, Raymond; Sylvia is the wife of F. Hudson, of Hawarden, Iowa, and they have two children, Harold and Kenneth.

Politically, Frank Van Buskirk is identified with the Republican party and has always taken an active interest in the civic and political life of the township. For the past eight years he has served as trustee of his home township and has also served a number of years as a member of the school board. As a public official, he has the confidence and respect of the people of the community. Fraternally, he is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America.

EDWARD STEPHEN BRUFORD.

Those who belong to the respectable middle class of society, being early taught the necessity of relying upon their own exertions, will be more apt to acquire that information and those business habits which alone can fit them for the discharge of life's duties. Indeed, it has long been a noticeable fact that our successful men in nearly all walks of life spring from this class. A representative of this class of citizens is Edward Stephen Bruford, owner of "Walnut Grove Farm," in Perry township, who was born near Freeport, Illinois, on October 12, 1866, being the son of Henry and Mary (Matthews) (Burns) Bruford. Henry Bruford was a native of England and came to the United States when he was but sixteen years of age; his wife, Mary Bruford, was a native of this country. For a number of years after coming to this country, Henry Bruford spent many years, hunting and trapping in the states of Illinois, Wisconsin and Minnesota, and for the most part led a roaming life until he was married in 1863. He then established a home, on a farm seven miles from Freeport, Illinois, where he lived for five years. He then sold the place and came to Sioux City, Iowa, where he operated a market garden for some time. In 1872 he came to Plymouth county, where he homesteaded eighty acres of land in Perry township. A small house, fourteen by sixteen feet, was erected and in this he and his family lived for about ten years. The first few years of his life in the county were hard ones, for the grasshoppers and hail storms destroyed about everything that was raised

for the first three years. During this time Mr. Bruford did much work in Sioux City. After the disappearance of the pests that had destroyed so much of the farm products of this section of the country, the farmers were destined to become successful on well-conducted farms. Mr. Bruford was a hard-working and industrious man and was soon in a position to make many valuable improvements on the farm, much of his time being devoted to the raising of garden products for the markets of Sioux City. He was a lover of nature and took much pride in the beautiful grove that he had planted and cared for during the early stages of its existence. It was from this grove that the son, Edward, cut over thirteen thousand feet of lumber a short time ago. It was here that he engaged in his chosen work, until 1890, when he retired, and made his home with his son until the time of his death, on June 30, 1907.

Henry Bruford was twice married, his first wife being Mary Matthews Burns, the widow of a Mr. Burns, who died some years before, leaving two children, Rosa, the widow of William Wolf, who was killed by a street car at Sioux City in 1914, and Theresa the wife of Kit Kisselman, a commission man at the stock yards at Sioux City. To Henry and Mary Bruford one child was born, Edward Stephen Bruford. After the death of his wife, many years ago, Henry Bruford was married to Hannah Wolfindin, a widow, who died in 1906.

Edward Stephen Bruford received but limited educational advantages, having attended the public schools of Sioux City for one year. He grew to manhood on the home farm, where he assisted with the work. At the age of twenty-four years, he assumed entire charge of the place. As a lad, he was taught the principles of successful farming and gardening and was trained to rely upon himself. Since the death of his father, he has made many valuable improvements on the farm. He has built a splendid two-story frame house, a good barn and made extensive repairs on the other buildings. Being an apt worker in wood, he and his step-son did the carpenter work on the buildings, which are evidence of his master workmanship. He planted an orchard and is today producing some fine apples. He makes a specialty of general farming and the raising of hogs, in which he has had excellent success.

In January, 1903, Edward Stephen Bruford was united in marriage to Nettie (Hungerford) Du Bois, the widow of Mr. Du Bois and the mother of one child, Lewis Du Bois, who is now assisting Mr. Bruford with the work on the farm. Mrs. Bruford is the daughter of L. B. and Mattie Hun-

gerford, early settlers in the county. Mr. and Mrs. Bruford are well and favorably known throughout the community and are held in the highest regard. Mr. Bruford is a Republican, but has never aspired to office, devoting his time to the interests of his farm and his family.

FRANK BRABAND.

Frank Braband, a successful farmer and stock man of Elgin township, Plymouth county, Iowa, was born in Will county, Illinois, on November 25, 1869, being the son of Adam and Theresa Braband.

Adam and Theresa Braband were born in Germany and there received their education in the schools of that country and spent the early years of their lives. Mr. Braband worked as a farm hand in his native land, until he was twenty-eight years of age, when he came to the United States. On his arrival in this country he came at once to Will county, Illinois, where he continued his work on the farm, and there he was married. In 1883 he and his family came to Plymouth county and here the father purchased two hundred and forty acres of land in Washington township, and there engaged in general farming and stock raising for the rest of his life. He met with success and was soon recognized as one of the substantial men of the township. He and his wife were active members of the Catholic church and were prominent in the early life of the township. They were the parents of eight children as follow: Theresa, Louise, Henry, Peter, Adam, Annie, Frank and Mary.

Frank Braband received the greater part of his education in the schools of Washington township and grew to manhood on the home farm, where, as a lad and young man, he engaged in farm work. He remained with his father until the time of his marriage, when he established his home on a rented farm of two hundred and forty acres in Elgin township, where he remained for eight years. He then purchased the splendid farm of eighty acres where he now lives, which is under a high state of cultivation and well improved. He devotes his life to general farming and stock raising and keeps some fine cattle and hogs. He believes in intensive farming and the most thorough cultivation of the soil, and his fields are evidence of the careful attention that he gives them.

Frank Braband was as a young man united in marriage to Rose Riter, the daughter of Nick Riter and wife, well-known people of the county, and to this union five children have been born: Leo, Alfred, Edwin, Viola and

Oliva, all of whom are at home with the parents. The family are members of the Catholic church at Le Mars and take much interest in the services of that organization. Mr. Braband is identified with the Democratic party and takes much interest in local affairs, having served his district as school director for a number of years. He is well known throughout the county and is held in the highest regard by all who know him.

PHILIP F. TRACY.

Philip Tracy, a progressive young farmer of Sioux township, this county, and former assessor of that township, was born on a neighboring farm, across the river in South Dakota, and has been a resident of that neighborhood all his life, being now the occupant of the old Tracy farm bought by his grandfather, William Tracy, about 1870, from the Pickney family, who had it from the original grantee, the Rev. John Demster, a Pennsylvania minister of the gospel, to whom it was granted by the government for services rendered during the War of 1812. This farm is said to be the first farm that was actually occupied in Plymouth county, and on the place there is still standing the first frame house that was erected in this county, the doors and windows of the same having been shipped from St. Louis, coming by boat to Sioux City and thence by way of the old military trail up along the banks of the Sioux river to the military post or fort that was maintained for some years prior to 1867 on the Demster grant, the fort, or stockade, having been constructed of elm logs stuck into the side hill about ten rods to the northeast of the present Tracy residence. That old stockade was still standing there when William Tracy entered upon possession of the farm, a tract of about one-half section of land, in 1872, and the old frame house that had been erected by the Pickneys, a family that came from Michigan, was used for some time by the Tracys and is still standing, in a pretty good state of repair. In that old house was conducted the first postoffice established in Plymouth county and there is held by the Tracys a valuable relic of those days, the same being the old desk which served as a place for sorting and distributing the mail at the old fort station. The desk is in an excellent state of preservation, as is the old clay ink-well that was with it when it came into the possession of the Tracys and both are prized highly by the family as valuable relics of the early days hereabout.

In a biographical sketch relating to James Tracy, father of Philip F. Tracy and son of William Tracy, the pioneer above mentioned, presented else-

where in this volume, there is set out at considerable length something of the history of the family and the reader is respectfully referred to that sketch for further information in this connection. Philip F. Tracy was born on May 24, 1882, the first-born of the nine children born to his parents, James and Mary (Patten) Tracy, pioneers of this section of the country, and was but an infant when they moved to this side of the river and took up their residence in Sioux township, near the home of the former's father, William Tracy, the grandfather of the subject of this sketch, on which place Philip F. Tracy is now making his home. In the district school in that neighborhood he received his schooling and upon growing to manhood he began working his uncle's farm, a place of three hundred and twenty acres, the old Demster grant above referred to, and there has lived ever since, engaged in general farming and stock raising, and has done very well. Mr. Tracy is a Republican and from the days of his young manhood has taken an earnest interest in local civic affairs and for eight years served as assessor of Sioux township.

In the year 1906 Philip F. Tracy was united in marriage to Nellie Conway, who was born in this county, daughter of John Conway and wife, pioneers of this section of the state, and to this union three children have been born, Gertrude, Eleanor and Gerald. The Tracys have a very pleasant home along the banks of the Sioux river and take a warm interest in the general social activities of the community in which they live.

JOSEPH WEISS.

Joseph Weiss, one of Perry township's substantial farmers, is a native of Germany, born on March 30, 1868, son of George and Theresa (Revish) Weiss, natives of Germany, farming people, who were the parents of five children, Joseph, George, Leopold, Charney and Anton, of whom Joseph, the eldest, was the only one to come to this country.

In the spring of 1894 Joseph Weiss came to the United States, arriving at port on April 11, of that year. He proceeded at once to Iowa and settled at Sioux City, three weeks later taking employment on a farm in that vicinity, continuing that employment for six months, at the end of which time he rented a farm in that neighborhood and started in farming on his own account and was thus engaged in Woodbury county for three years. In the meantime Mr. Weiss married and at the end of his tenancy on the farm above mentioned came up into Plymouth county and bought one hundred and sixty

acres in section 7 of Perry township, paying for the same twenty-seven dollars and fifty cents an acre, and there established his home. He erected substantial buildings on his place and has brought it up to a high state of cultivation. In addition to his general farming Mr. Weiss has given considerable attention to stock raising, handling black hogs and a mixed grade of Durham cattle, and has done very well. He is a member of the Catholic church and takes a proper interest in parish affairs.

It was after his arrival in this state that Joseph Weiss was united in marriage to Mrs. Mary (Vondrak) Brown, a widow, of Sioux City, daughter of John Vondrak, of Perry township, this county. Mrs. Weiss died on January 27, 1912. By her first marriage she was the mother of one child, a son, Charles Brown, who married Miss Betervorth and is living on the Weiss farm, assisting in the operation of the same.

CYRUS P. KNAPP.

Cyrus P. Knapp, a well-known and progressive farmer of Hancock township, this county, is a native son of Plymouth county and has lived here all his life. He was born on the farm on which he is now living, April 24, 1880, son of Cyrus and Harriet (Palmer) Knapp, the former a native of New York state and the latter of Connecticut, who were married in Illinois, came to this part of the country in 1866, settling in Union county, South Dakota, whence, in 1875, they came over the river and settled in Hancock township, this county, where they spent the rest of their lives, Cyrus Knapp dying in the summer of 1903 and his widow in the spring of 1916. Cyrus Knapp was a member of the territorial Legislature during South Dakota's territorial days and for years was an influential resident of this part of the country. He and his wife were the parents of fourteen children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the tenth in order of birth. In a biographical sketch relating to Noah R. Knapp, elder brother of the subject of this sketch, presented elsewhere in this volume, there is set out a quite comprehensive history of the Knapp family in this part of the country and to that narrative the attention of the reader is invited in this connection for further details regarding the genealogy of Cyrus P. Knapp.

Reared on the home farm in Hancock township, Cyrus P. Knapp received his elementary schooling in the local schools and supplemented the same by a course at the Commercial College at Charles City, after which,

in partnership with his brother, Clarence, he was engaged in operating the home farm. After his marriage in 1907 he, in further partnership with his brother Clarence, bought two hundred acres of the home place, including the house and farm buildings, and shortly afterward bought his brother's interest in the same, since which time he has been sole proprietor. In 1912 Mr. Knapp erected a fine new and commodious residence on his farm and in 1914 built a new barn of modern construction, forty by eighty feet in dimension, with concrete foundation and hip-roof, designed with particular reference to the proper care of cattle and having accommodation for twelve horses and fifty cattle. In addition to his general farming, Mr. Knapp has for some years given considerable attention to the raising of high-grade live stock and has done very well. In his political views he is "independent" and has not been a seeker after public office.

On December 23, 1907, Cyrus P. Knapp was united in marriage to Maude E. Fry, who was born in Sioux township, this county, daughter of Alfred Fry and wife, early settlers of that township, and to this union two children have been born, Cyrus Alfred, born on August 3, 1909, and Marjorie Maude, August 5, 1916. The Knapps have a very pleasant home and both Mr. and Mrs. Knapp take a proper interest in the general social activities of their home community, helpful in the work of promoting all good causes thereabout.

JOHN C. SCHNEIDER.

Although, doubtless, most people would like to remain on the old homestead where they "played away the happy hours of innocent childhood," but few are permitted to do so, from one cause or another; but there is always a sentiment about the hearthstone where the family gathered when we were children that cannot be replaced. John C. Schneider, farmer, of Hungerford township, Plymouth county, has been fortunate in being permitted to spend his life on the home farm. His birth occurred in the house where he now resides on August 20, 1870. He is a son of Henry Schneider, a well-known early settler in Plymouth county, a sketch of whom will be found on another page of this volume.

John C. Schneider grew to manhood on the home farm, where he assisted with the general work during the crop seasons, and in the winter time attended the district schools. He has always engaged in general farming and stock raising and has met with pronounced success. He owns a half



JOHN C. SCHNEIDER AND WIFE.

section of productive and well-improved land in his native county. His land lies in Hungerford and Lincoln townships. He has a good home and numerous convenient outbuildings.

Mr. Schneider was married on December 17, 1907, to Anna B. Julch, a native of Rock Island, Illinois, and a daughter of Phillip and Louisa (Hartman) Julch, the former born in Germany and the latter in Rock Island, and who came west to Nebraska in 1883 and in 1900 moved to Plymouth county. They are living now at Morningside, Iowa.

To Mr. and Mrs. Schneider three children have been born, namely: Inez Edith, Dorothy Louise and Glenn Walter.

Politically, Mr. Schneider is a Republican. He and his family attend the United Evangelical church.

J. H. POLLOCK.

J. H. Pollock, one of the substantial and well-known farmers of Portland township, this county, was born on a farm in Richland county, Ohio, September 11, 1859, son of Robert and Nancy A. (Cantwell) Pollock, both natives of that same county, who later moved to Missouri, coming thence to Iowa and after a some time residence in Sac county locating in Plymouth county, where they spent their last days, respected pioneers of this county.

Robert Pollock was born in Richland county, Ohio, on August 25, 1820, son of Hugh Pollock and wife, the former a native of Scotland and the latter of Wales, who came to this country with their respective parents in the days of their youth, settling in Ohio, where they were married, living for some time thereafter in Hardin county and then in Richland county, where their last days were spent. Hugh Pollock was a farmer and was killed by a falling tree. He and his wife were the parents of four children, of whom Robert was the last born, the others being Mary Ellen, Margaret and Sally, now all deceased. It was in his home county that Robert Pollock, on February 8, 1844, married Nancy A. Cantwell, who also was born in Richland county, November 30, 1824, a daughter of Thomas and Arey (Buckingham) Cantwell, prominent residents and pioneers of that community. Thomas Cantwell was born in Brooks county, Virginia, in that part of the Old Dominion now comprised in West Virginia, October 4, 1798, and there

grew to manhood. On November 10, 1819, he married Arey Buckingham, also a member of an old family in Virginia, then living in Jefferson county, Ohio, and in 1820 moved to Richland county, in the latter state, and was for some years there engaged in freighting, hauling supplies from the cities to the north and east. There his wife died on April 7, 1827, and in 1828 he bought a farm eight miles northeast of Mansfield, Ohio, and there made his home until 1865, when he moved to Olivesburg, Ohio, where he died on March 20, 1867. To Thomas Cantwell and wife four children were born, of whom Mrs. Pollock was the third in order of birth, the others being William Rufus, Margaret and Arey Jane.

After his marriage Robert Pollock bought a farm in Richland county and there remained until 1869, in which year he sold his holdings in that county and with his family moved to Missouri, buying a farm in Grundy county, that state, and remaining there until 1881, when he again sold out and then came to Iowa, settling in Sac county, to which county his son, the subject of this sketch, had preceded him about four years before and there he lived until in February, 1884, when he came to Plymouth county and homesteaded a quarter section of land in section 23 of Portland township, where he established his home anew and where he spent the rest of his life, an influential pioneer citizen, his death occurring on June 15, 1894. His widow survived him nearly six years, her death occurring on June 11, 1900. They were earnest members of the Methodist Episcopal church and their children, were reared in that faith. There were nine of these children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the seventh in order of birth, the others being as follow: Thomas, who died at the age of four years; George W., a retired farmer, living in Missouri; William Rufus, who died in infancy; Reuben Russel, a farmer living in Portland township, this county; Sarah Eleanor, who married L. F. Root and is now living at Akron, this county; Emma Jane, who married Alden Armstrong and lives at Lake View, in Sac county, this state; Edward, who died in his first year, and Margaret Estelle, who married Charles Wise and lives at Akron.

J. H. Pollock was about four years old when his parents moved from Ohio to Missouri and was eighteen when they came to Iowa. His schooling was completed in this state and he early began to work on his own account, working on farms in Sac county until 1882, when he rented a farm there and after his marriage in 1883 began housekeeping on the same. The next year, in 1884, he came with his father to Plymouth county and for some time thereafter was engaged in managing his father's homestead in Portland township, breaking the sod and bringing the place under cultivation.

Until their death his parents made their home with him and his wife on that farm and after the death of his widowed mother he bought the interests of the other heirs in the home place and has since been the owner and has since then made numerous valuable improvements on the place. In 1901, the year in which he came into possession, he built his present modern barn and in 1908 erected his present and commodious and comfortable residence, he and his family now being very pleasantly situated. Mr. Pollock is a Republican and ever since coming to this county has taken an active interest in local civic affairs. He has served on various occasions as delegate to the conventions of his party in the county and has served the public in the capacity of justice of the peace and as township clerk.

On September 27, 1883, J. H. Pollock was united in marriage to Mary Estelle Rhea, who was born in Clinton county, this state, December 6, 1860, daughter of Archibald Rhea and wife, early settlers in that county, who later moved to Sac county, and to this union four children have been born, namely: Arden Rhea, born on June 16, 1885, now living at Sioux City, where he is engaged in the service of the Milwaukee Railroad; Robert Rex, March 5, 1888, a farmer, living near Adaville, this county, Nannia Clair and Kenneth Clyde, twins, June 6, 1892, the former of whom married Louise W. Koch and lives on a farm two miles south of that of his father, and the latter of whom is at home, assisting his father in the operation of the farm. Mrs. Pollock is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. Pollock is a Mason and a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and takes a warm interest in the affairs of both of these organizations.

FRANK F. McELHANEY.

Frank F. McElhaney, a well-known and substantial farmer of Portland township, this county, trustee of that township, former assessor, a veteran of the Spanish-American War and for years actively identified with the growing interests of the community in which he lives, is a native son of Plymouth county and has lived here all his life. He was born on a pioneer farm on the Floyd river, about three miles south of Le Mars, September 25, 1876, son of Thomas S. and Minerva E. (McDonald) McElhaney, the former a native of Virginia and the latter of Wisconsin, pioneers of this county and the latter of whom is still living here.

Thomas S. McElhaney was born at Lexington, Rockbridge county, Vir-

ginia, May 13, 1838, son of Strother and Jane (Stoops) McElhaney, both natives of that same state, of Scotch-Irish descent, and who were the parents of eight children, of whom Thomas S. was the last-born, the others being Sophia, who died young, Robert, John, James, William, Samuel and Thomas, the last-named of whom died in infancy. Following the death of Strother McElhaney in Virginia, his widow came west with her children in 1851 and settled at Galena, Illinois, where she remained for years, later coming to this state, spending her last days in the home of her son in Sioux City. Thomas S. McElhaney was thirteen years of age when he accompanied his mother to Galena, Illinois, and he remained for seven years, or until 1858, in which year he came to Iowa and located at Sioux City, where he was residing at the time of the outbreak of the Civil War. He enlisted in Company I, Seventh Iowa Cavalry, and served with that command for three years, his principal service having been with General Sully in the latter's campaigns against the Indians in the Dakota. Upon the completion of his military service Mr. McElhaney returned to Sioux City and not long thereafter came up into Plymouth county and took a soldier's homestead claim on a tract of land south of Le Mars, on which he lived for about seven years, at the end of which time he moved to a farm east of Le Mars, where he lived until 1883, when he entered a tree claim to the northwest quarter of section 13 in Portland township, where Fred Cassen now lives, and there he lived until his retirement from the active labors of the farm in 1907 and removal to Hawarden, where he died on November 10, 1914. Mr. McElhaney was a Republican and ever took a prominent part in the political affairs of Plymouth county. He was the second sheriff elected in the county and for many years was justice of the peace in and for Portland township, besides holding other township offices from time to time. He was an active member of the Grand Army of the Republic and was a Mason and a member of the Knights of Pythias, in the affairs of all of which organizations he took a warm interest.

Thomas S. McElhaney was twice married. It was during his residence in Sioux City that he married Isabel McCurdy, who died at her home in this county. To that union three children were born, Fannie, Florence and an infant who died with its mother. Some time after the death of Mrs. Isabel McElhaney, Thomas S. McElhaney was united in marriage to Minerva E. McDonald, who was born at Beetown, in Grant county, Wisconsin, July 31, 1841, daughter of Joseph and Rebecca (McDonald) McDonald, the former a native of Ireland and the latter of Pennsylvania. Joseph McDonald was born in the north of Ireland, of Scottish parents,

and in his youth came to this country, settling in Wisconsin, where he married Rebecca McDonald, who was born in Fayette county, Pennsylvania, about twelve miles from Uniontown, in 1811, daughter of Abner and Sarah McDonald, the latter of whom died in Pennsylvania. Following the death of his wife, Abner McDonald came west with his daughter, Rebecca, and settled in Wisconsin, where he spent the rest of his life and where the daughter married Joseph McDonald, who at that time was teaching school in that state. Joseph and Rebecca McDonald spent the rest of their lives in Wisconsin, his death occurring in 1859 and hers in 1876. They were the parents of six children, Margaret, Alpheus, Mary, Minerva E., William, who died in infancy, and William, second. Minerva E. McDonald grew up in Wisconsin, receiving an excellent education there, and as a young woman came out to this part of Iowa as a school teacher and was teaching in Plymouth county when she married Thomas S. McElhaney. To that union five children were born, of whom the subject of this sketch was the third in order of birth, the others being as follows: Nellie G., who was drowned in her thirteenth year; Edward W., a federal meat inspector, with headquarters in Chicago; Jesse M., a traveling salesman, living at Sandusky, Ohio, and Clara M., who married Andrew Tidd and makes her home with her widowed mother.

Frank F. McElhaney was reared on the paternal farm in this county and received his elementary education in the old Stony Point district school, supplementing the same by a course in the Normal School at Le Mars, remaining on the home farm, a valued assistant to his father in the development of the same, until 1901, when he rented an adjoining farm and began to farm on his own account. In 1911 he bought the farm, a place of eighty acres in section 14 of Portland township, and has since then been the owner of the same. Mr. McElhaney has made extensive and valuable improvements on his place and he and his family are very pleasantly situated there. In addition to his general farming he has gone in somewhat extensively for live stock, particularly in the line of Duroc-Jersey hogs, keeping one hundred head or more pure-bred stock, his registered boar, "Model Chief," having been a recent prize winner at the Sioux City fair. Mr. McElhaney is a Republican and for ten years served as assessor of his home township, and for the past two years has been serving as township trustee. Upon the outbreak of the Spanish-American War in 1898 he enlisted for service in Company M, Fifty-second Regiment, Iowa Volunteer Infantry, and served with that command from June 25 until it was mustered out on the following October 30.

On June 24, 1915, Frank F. McElhaney was united in marriage to Jennie E. Schuyler, who was born at Sioux City, this state, daughter of Henry B. Schuyler and wife, and to this union one child has been born, a son, Lloyd, born on January 29, 1916. The McElhaney's have a very pleasant home and take a proper interest in the general social activities of the community in which they live. Mr. McElhaney is a Mason and takes a warm interest in the affairs of that order.

OLE BONNES.

Ole Bonnes, one of Plymouth county's pioneers and a substantial landowner of Perry Township, now living retired from the active labors of the farm, making his home in Sioux City, is a native of the kingdom of Norway, but has been a resident of this country since he was twenty-four years of age. He was born on December 7, 1846, son of John and Ingrey Johnson, also natives of Norway, who were the parents of four children, Ole, John, Iver and Ever, the first three of whom came to this country.

In the year 1870 Ole Bonnes came to the United States, landing at the port of New York. He came directly to Iowa and joined some friends at Sioux City, where he remained a little more than a year, at the end of which time, early in 1872, he came up into Plymouth county and homesteaded a tract of eighty acres in section four of Perry township. After his marriage he established his home on that farm and there continued to reside until about eleven years ago, when he turned the management of the farm over to his son, Oliver, and retired from the active labors of the farm, moving to Sioux City, where he owns property and where he is now living at 2112 Jevonia street. Mr. Bonnes was a good farmer and made substantial improvements on his place, planted a grove and brought the place up to a high state of cultivation. He also took an active interest in local civic affairs and for five or six years served as a member of the school board.

Mr. Bonnes has been twice married. It was not long after he homesteaded his place in this county that he was united in marriage, over in South Dakota, to Carrie Paulson, daughter of Paul Paulson and wife, and to that union four children were born, namely: Oliver, born on May 31, 1878, now operating the home farm in Perry township, who married Gea Ingen and has three children, Oral, Pearl and Minnie; Edith, who married Jack Flannery, of Sioux City; Rosa, who married Roy Hurtt and is now living in South

Dakota, and Katie, who married Harry Gobel, of Sioux City. The mother of these children died on June 22, 1894, at the age of sixty-four years, and in 1909 Mr. Bonnes married Anna Nordahl. Mr. and Mrs. Bonnes are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church. Mr. Bonnes long ago increased his land holdings in Perry township to a full quarter section and before his retirement was regarded as one of the substantial farmers of that neighborhood. He has a comfortable home in Sioux City and is very pleasantly situated there.

JOHN DANIEL O'BRYAN.

John Daniel O'Bryan, member of the board of trustees of Perry township, the nominee of his party for county supervisor in 1916, a former rural mail carrier out of Hinton and one of the best-known farmers in Perry township, has been a resident of Plymouth county for the past fifteen years. He was born at Colona, Illinois, July 1, 1868, son of Maurice and Johanna (Gary) O'Bryan, the former a native of Ireland and the latter of the state of Massachusetts.

Maurice O'Bryan was but a lad when he came to this country from Ireland and he grew to manhood in Massachusetts and was married at Worcester, that state to Johanna Gary, later moving to Colona, Illinois, where he died about 1870, leaving five children, the subject of this sketch being at that time about two years of age, the other children being Richard, Maurice, James and Anastasia. The widow later married Morris Cain and shortly afterward came to this state, settling on a farm in the vicinity of Casey, where Mr. Cain spent his last days. The widow then joined her sons, James and John D., in this county, and here spent the remainder of her life. She was an earnest member of the Catholic church and her children were reared in that faith.

John D. O'Bryan grew to manhood on the home farm in the vicinity of Casey, this state, and received his elementary schooling in the local schools, supplementing the same by a course in the West Iowa Business College at Council Bluffs. He married in 1896 and four or five years later came to this county, buying land near Hinton, where he lived until February 1, 1910, when he bought the northeast quarter of section 35 in Perry township and on this latter farm has since made his home, he and his family now being very comfortably situated there. In addition to his general farming, Mr. O'Bryan has given considerable attention to the raising of high-grade Duroc-Jersey

hogs and has done very well in that line. For more than six years he served as rural mail carrier on route No. 3, out of Hinton, and in 1914 was elected as a member of the board of trustees of Perry township. In 1916 he was made the nominee of the Democratic party for the office of county supervisor from his district, an evidence of the regard in which he is held by his neighbors that was highly appreciated by him.

On December 3, 1896, John D. O'Bryan was united in marriage to Atalia Jones, daughter of Stephen and Cythera Jones, and to this union three sons have been born, Paul J., H. Richard and Floyd D. The O'Bryans are members of the Catholic church and take a proper interest in parish affairs, as well as in the general social activities of the community in which they live, helpful in the promotion of all good causes thereabout.

THOMAS WILSON.

Thomas Wilson, a well-known and substantial farmer and stockman of Lincoln township, this county, was born in Jones county, this state, in 1866, son of Robert and Catherine (Traynor) Wilson, who later came to this county, where their last days were spent. Robert Wilson was a manufacturer of woolen goods in Philadelphia until he disposed of his interests there and came to Iowa, settling on a farm in Jones county, where he remained until 1884, when he sold his land there and came over to this part of the state and bought a tract of two thousand acres lying in Lincoln township, this county, and over the line in Woodbury county. There he died the year following and the estate was developed by the widow, who died in 1891. Robert Wilson and wife were the parents of nine children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the third in order of birth, the others being George (deceased), Frank, Catherine, Jennie, Emma, Nellie, Helen and Gertrude.

Thomas Wilson was eighteen years of age when his parents came to Plymouth county from Jones county and from the very beginning of his residence here he became a valuable factor in the work of developing the fine estate left by his father. In the ultimate division of that estate he became the owner of a tract of four hundred acres in section 35 of Lincoln township, where he now makes his home and which he has improved in excellent shape, long having been recognized as one of the most progressive farmers and stockmen in that part of the county. He has made a specialty of Polled Angus cattle and has also given considerable attention to the breeding of fine

horses, his thoroughbred Kentucky sires having done much to improve the standard of horseflesh in that neighborhood. Mr. Wilson is unmarried and he and his sister, Catherine, make their home together. They are members of the Episcopal church and take a proper interest in church affairs, as well as in the general social activities of the community in which they live, helpful in the promotion of all movements designed to advance the common welfare thereabout.

PHILIP HELD.

Among the pioneers of Plymouth county who have passed from the scenes of earthly activity, the late Philip Held, who died at his home in Hungerford township in 1899 exerted a very wide influence upon the life of this community during the years he labored so effectively for the upbuilding of the same. Particularly as a stockman did he do a great work for the community and in raising the standard of the stock bred in this part of the state in an earlier day he performed a service of incalculable benefit. That work did not cease with his death and on the great "Mondamin Stock Farm" which he created in Hungerford township his widow and his sons are still carrying on the work he so definitely established.

Philip Held was a native of Germany, but became a resident of this country when twenty-one years of age and spent the rest of his life here. He was born at Bechlolsheim, in Hesse-Darmstadt, October 16, 1831, and grew to manhood in his native land. In 1852 he came to the United States on a visit to friends in the state of New York and decided to make his permanent residence in this country. He worked on a farm in New York state until the fall of 1853, when he decided to try his fortunes in the West and proceeded to Milwaukee, where he for awhile was engaged working for a railroad, after which he went to Illinois and worked on a farm in Ogle county, that state, for about a year, at the end of which time, in 1855, he came to Iowa and for some time thereafter was engaged in hauling goods from Council Bluffs to Sioux City. He then went to Jackson county, Nebraska, and remained there about six years, at the end of which time he returned to Sioux City. In the meantime he had been saving a bit of money and by that time had about four hundred dollars in his money belt. That sum he invested in town lots at Sioux City, paying for the same twenty-five dollars a lot, an investment on which he later realized quite profitably. In 1862 he came up into Plymouth county and here homesteaded a tract of eighty acres in section 9 of Hunger-

ford township, which he proceeded to develop, and thus obtained his start in this county, that homestead having been but the beginning of his later accumulation of nearly twelve hundred acres of land. Mr. Held married in 1870 and established his home on his homestead tract, remaining there until 1879, when he established his permanent home at the present site of the Held home in section 8 of that same township, one-half mile south of Hinton, where he presently developed one of the best farm plants and one of the most extensive stock-breeding establishments, the widely-known "Mondamin Stock Farm," on which he spent the rest of his life. In 1887 Mr. Held bought eight head of pure-bred Shorthorn cattle and that was the start of his later extensive dealings in Shorthorns, his activity in that direction having done much to elevate the standard of the breed of cattle throughout this section. In 1898 he engaged in the hog business, starting with one hundred head of pure-bred Poland Chinas and performed an equally valuable service to the community by thus stimulating the swine industry throughout this section. Mr. Held also brought to this county the first sheep ever brought here. That was more than forty years ago and it was found to be a profitable venture. His sons about six years ago brought in some pure-bred Shropshire sheep and are now developing that strain on the Held farm and have taken several first prizes on their sheep at the inter-state fairs held at Sioux City. Since the death of Mr. Held his widow and his sons have continued "Mondamin Stock Farm," the estate remaining undivided and the Held brothers, as stockmen, have gained a wide reputation throughout the Northwest. Their German Coach horses have taken prizes at Sioux City, at Lincoln and at Topeka and their Shorthorn cattle stock also has been rewarded with first prizes on several occasions.

In January, 1870, Philip Held was united in marriage to Caroline Koehler and to that union ten children were born, all of whom are living, namely: Amelia, who married F. D. Empey; Philip E., a biographical sketch of whom is presented elsewhere in this volume; Frederick W., who also is made the subject of further biographical mention in this work; G. E., born on June 1, 1877, who still remains on the home farm with his widowed mother and is in active charge of affairs there, a well-known stockman, whose services as judge at county fairs are in demand in that connection; Carrie E., who married W. H. Glover, who also is connected with "Mondamin Stock Farm"; Benjamin F., also at home and further mention of whom is made elsewhere in this volume, and Albert H., Margaret, Elmer and Walter W., who are also remaining at the old home. Walter W. Held is a member of

Company H, Second Regiment, Iowa National Guard, a corporal of the same, and in the summer of 1916 was called with his regiment to do service on the Mexican border. Philip Held died at his home in Hungerford township on January 31, 1899, and his widow is still living there, continuing general direction of the estate.

JULIUS SUSEMIHL.

The late Julius Susemihl, who during the few years of his residence in Plymouth county developed a valuable bit of farming property in Liberty township, which his widow and children are now keeping up, was a native of Germany, born in the kingdom of Prussia on October 28, 1855, the son of Frederick and Fredericka Susemihl, natives of that same country, who spent all their lives there.

Julius Susemihl was reared on a farm in his native land and there grew to manhood. He served his term in the army and in the fall of 1885 married and the day following their marriage he and his bride started for the United States, with a view to making their home in this country. Upon landing on this side they proceeded directly to Iowa and came on over to Plymouth county and settled in Liberty township, where they established their home. Mr. Susemihl was fairly well-to-do when he came to this country and his inducement for coming to Plymouth county was the fact of the residence here of his uncle, Charles Buettner, who was the first settler in Liberty township, the earliest pioneer there, who had homesteaded a tract of land in section 14 of that township. Upon coming to this county Mr. Susemihl bought a partly-improved farm of one hundred and twenty acres in section 12 of Liberty township, on which there was fifty acres of growing corn, and he lost little time in settling down on the farm and proceeding further to develop and improve the same, and was getting the farm in excellent shape when death stopped his labors about five years later, his death occurring on January 14, 1891. For some years thereafter his widow rented out the farm, but as her sons grew older they began farming on a small scale and gradually increased the extent of their labors until in due time they had the whole farm in charge and were doing well, keeping the place in good repair and in a fine state of cultivation. The old barn and other farm buildings were in time supplanted by modern farm buildings of an up-to-date character and in 1913 Mrs. Susemihl erected a fine, new two-story house, where she and her family are now comfortably and pleasantly situated. The

elder son, Fred Susemihl, remained at home until after his marriage, when he started farming for himself and is now living in Johnson township, the younger brother, Ulrich Susemihl having charge of the home place.

On November 6, 1885, Julius Susemihl was united in marriage to Emma Ewert, who also was born in Prussia, a daughter of Capt. Ludwig and Henrietta Ewert, the former of whom is still living in his native land. Capt. Ludwig Ewert was for years the skipper of a sailing vessel on the Atlantic. While on a trip to South Africa his wife died and he did not know of the sad event until he sailed into the home port a year later. Once he lost his vessel on the sands near Boston harbor, but all hands were saved. While on shore he and his mate decided to hire a horse and buggy and drive around a bit to see the town. They presently stopped to get a glass of beer and while in the house of refreshment their horse and buggy were stolen. This convinced honest Captain Ewert that America was no place for him and he at once returned to his native land, where he is now living, at the great age of eighty-nine years; serving as mayor of his home town, in the absence of younger men, who are at the front, serving in behalf of the cause of the Fatherland.

To Julius and Emma (Ewert) Susemihl three children were born, Fred, who married Emma Buehre and is now farming in Johnson township; Esther, who is at home with her mother, and Ulrich, also at home, who is now taking direction of the home farm. The Susemihls are members of the German Lutheran church and take an earnest interest in the affairs of the same, as well as in the general social activities of the community in which they live, helpful factors in promoting all good causes thereabout.

HENRY BORCHERS.

Henry Borchers, a well-to-do and progressive farmer of Johnson township, this county, is a native of Germany, but has lived in this country since he was three years of age and in Plymouth county since he was seventeen. He was born on February 18, 1864, son of Ben and Anna Borchers, natives of Germany and residents of Oldenburg, who came to the United States in 1867, later coming to Iowa and settling in Plymouth county, where their last days were spent.

Ben Borchers was a laborer in his native Oldenburg and some years after his marriage determined to seek his fortune in the land across the sea. With that end in view he came with his family to the United States and settled in

Will county, Illinois, where for a year he and his wife worked at such employment as their hands could find to do and then he rented a bit of land there and began farming in a small way, continuing thus engaged there for about thirteen years, or until the spring of 1881 when he moved to Iowa and began farming in this county. Upon his arrival here Mr. Borchers rented a farm of eighty acres in Preston township and there established his home. He presently bought a quarter of a section of unimproved land in that township, erected a good frame house thereon and there spent the rest of his life. He improved the place and brought it up to a high standard of cultivation and as he prospered in his operations bought other land, presently becoming recognized as one of the substantial farmers of that neighborhood. There Ben Borchers died in 1901, at the age of sixty-three years. His widow survived him fourteen years, her death occurring in October, 1915, she then being seventy-three years of age. They were the parents of eleven children, all of whom grew to maturity save two, one who died and was buried in the ocean while the family was en route to this country, and Gerhart, who died in Illinois. Of the surviving children the subject of this sketch is the eldest, the others being as follow: Ben, who is farming in Preston township, this county; Mary, now deceased, who was the wife of J. Dirks, of Brunsville, this county; August, Louis, Will and John, all of whom are farming in Preston township; Anna, who married Charles Mammer, of Grant township, and Minnie, who married Michael Eilers, of Preston township.

Henry Borchers was about three years of age when his parents came to this country and his boyhood was spent on the farm in Will county, Illinois. He was about seventeen when the family came to Plymouth county and his schooling was completed in the schools in the neighborhood of the family home in Preston township. Being the eldest son he was a valued assistant to his father in the labors of developing and improving the home farm and remained at home thus engaged until his marriage in 1891, when he started farming on his own account, renting a quarter of a section of land from his father in section 9 of Johnson township. Two years later he bought that place from his father and ever since has made his home there. Mr. Borchers has been successful in his farming operations and has one of the best-improved farms in that part of the county. In 1906 he supplanted his old house by a fine new modern house, equipped with a gas-lighting plant and modern conveniences and there he and his family are very comfortably and very pleasantly situated. He has a grove of three or four acres and an excellent orchard, a commodious barn and general farm buildings in keeping with the same and up-to-date provisions for the care of live stock. He keeps from thirty-five to

fifty head of cattle and from eighty to one hundred head of hogs and has done very well as a stock man. In 1914 Mr. Borchers increased his land holdings by the purchase of a quarter section in Westfield township, which he is at present renting.

Henry Borchers has been twice married. In 1891 he was united in marriage to Kate Rickloss, who died, leaving one child, a daughter, Anna, who married Ben Toel, a farmer, of Johnson township, this county. Mr. Borchers then married Helen Toel and to this union three children have been born, Ben, Alma and Freda. The Borchers are members of the German Lutheran church and take a proper interest in the general beneficences of the same, as well as in the general social activities of the community in which they live.

J. G. MILLER.

J. G. Miller, one of Plymouth county's best-known and most progressive farmers, proprietor of a fine farm in Johnson township, for years trustee of that township and now a member of the board of supervisors for this county, is a native of Switzerland, but has lived in this county since he was a boy and has consequently been a witness to and a participant in the development of this region since pioneer days. He was born on a farm in the foothills of the Alps on February 3, 1871, son of Abraham and Christina (Kasper) Miller, natives of Switzerland, who came to this country in the early eighties and settled in this county, where they spent their last days, honored and respected pioneer citizens.

Abraham Miller was a road maker in his native land and owned a small piece of land in the foothills of the Alps. In 1882 he disposed of his interests in Switzerland and with his family came to the United States, proceeding on out to Iowa and settling in Plymouth county, where he and his wife spent the remainder of their lives. Upon coming here Abraham Miller bought a tract of partly improved land, amounting to eighty acres, in section 4 of Johnson township, and there made his home for four years, at the end of which time he rented a tract of about four hundred and eighty acres from John Ruble and he and his sons worked that place for five years, after which he bought a partly improved farm of two hundred and forty acres in section 4 of Johnson township and there established his home, remaining there the rest of his life, his death occurring in 1915, he then being eighty-three years of age. Abraham Miller was a man of much energy and even after reaching an

age which precluded his further active attention to the labors of the farm was not content to remain idle. Work was a pleasure to him and after his retirement from the management of the farm he found diversion in keeping the grove trimmed down and in cutting and sawing stove-wood and cording the same for future use. Though his death occurred in 1915 there is still enough stove-wood on the place, carefully corded by his aged hands, to last for some time. Mr. Miller never was able to master the English language and so long as his elder son, Peter Miller, lived the latter transacted his business affairs for him. After the death of Peter Miller, the next brother, the subject of this sketch, assumed charge of affairs and after the latter started out on his own account and left the old home farm, the younger brother, Bartle, who is still operating the home place, had things in charge. Abraham Miller's wife preceded him to the grave about thirteen years, her death having occurred in 1902, she then having been in the sixty-seventh year of her age. They were the parents of six children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the fourth in order of birth, the others being as follow: Lucy, who married Henry Buehre, a farmer, of Johnson township, this county; Eva, who married Jesse Kallsen, a retired farmer, now living at Le Mars; Peter, who was drowned in the Sioux river in 1888; Christ, who is farming near Merrill, this county, and Bartle, who is farming the old home place and a biographical sketch of whom is presented elsewhere in this volume.

J. G. Miller was about eleven years of age when he came to this country with his parents in 1882 and his schooling was completed in the schools of this county. From boyhood he was an able assistant to his father and brothers in the work of developing the home place and remained at home until after his marriage in 1898, when he bought the old Molzen place, a tract of two hundred acres in section 3 of Johnson township, and has ever since made his home there, he and his family now being comfortably and pleasantly situated. Upon taking possession of that place Mr. Miller started in further to improve the farm and has long had it in excellent shape, the place being regarded as one of the best-kept farms in the neighborhood. He has remodeled and enlarged the house and has erected a new set of farm buildings, a garage and other buildings and a fine new barn, fifty-six by seventy-two feet, having a hay capacity of about one hundred and seventy-five tons. He has an excellent herd of Hereford cattle, seventy-five or more, about one hundred and twenty-five hogs and eight or ten good horses. As he prospered in his farming operations Mr. Miller bought more land and now is the owner of four hundred and forty acres, two hundred and forty of which, lying in Washington township, he rents. Many years ago Mr. Miller was a Demo-

crat, but since the panic days of the early nineties has given his allegiance to the Republican party and has long been recognized as one of the leaders of that party in his part of the county. For eleven years Mr. Miller served as trustee of his home township, was also for years a member of the school board and is now giving further public service as a member of the board of county supervisors from his district. He is a stockholder in the Farmers Elevator Company at Brunsville and in the creamery company at that place.

In 1898 J. G. Miller was united in marriage to Anna Siebens and to this union five children have been born, Abraham, Eilert, Bartle, Christina and George. The Millers are members of the German Evangelical church and take a proper interest in the various beneficences of the same, as well as in the general social activities of the community in which they live, helpful in promoting all worthy causes thereabout.

WILLIAM SIMEON.

William Simeon, well-known grocer and baker of Akron, this county, is a native son of Iowa and has lived in this state all his life, ever since a child a resident of Plymouth county, his parents having been among the very earliest settlers in the county. He was born on a farm in Jackson county on July 16, 1863, son of John and Katherine (Snyder) Simeon, the former a native of Germany and the latter of Pennsylvania, of Dutch stock, who later became pioneers of Plymouth county.

John Simeon came to the United States when he was sixteen years of age and located in Chicago, later settling at Dubuque, this state, where, during the years 1838-39, he drove a team for a flour-milling company. He then went down into Jackson county, where he began farming and where he also found his services in demand as an auctioneer, and there, in 1842, he married Katherine Snyder. He remained in Jackson county until 1868, in which year he moved with his family over to this part of the state, which was just then beginning to be settled, and entered a claim to a homestead of eighty acres in Liberty township, this county. There, in a sod shanty, the first habitation erected in this region north of Sioux City, John Simeon and his family established their home, among the very first settlers in Plymouth county. At that time Indians were still numerous hereabout and the Simeons were for awhile rather disturbed by the thought of trouble with the aboriginals, but the latter were peaceably inclined and did nothing to disturb the



FAMILY GROUP OF WILLIAM AND CHARLES BODEN, INCLUDING GRANDMA HITZEMAN

settlers in their possession of their humble home on the prairie. Presently Mr. Simeon put up a log house to supplant his sod shanty and after proving up his homestead bought a partly-improved quarter section in Sioux township, onto which he moved in 1881, and there he made his home, a substantial farmer and influential citizen, the rest of his life. In 1899 he sold his farm and was just preparing to retire from the active labors of life, when death overtook him in 1900. His widow then moved to Le Mars. They were the parents of fourteen children, two of whom died in early youth, the others being Anna (deceased), Mary, John, William, Peter, Susan, Louisa, Clara, Barbara, Hannah, Philip and Joseph.

William Simeon was about five years of age when his parents moved to this county and he was reared on the pioneer farm, his first school a sod shanty and his first school teacher, Mr. Garner. Until he was twenty-four years of age he remained on the home farm, assisting his father in the improvement and development of the same, and then, on April 14, 1886, engaged in the butcher business at Akron, continuing thus engaged until in March, 1889, when he sold his place of business and rented a farm of three hundred and twenty acres near Millersville, where he engaged in farming for five years, at the end of which time he returned to Akron and again engaged in the butcher business, remaining thus engaged until 1901, when he again sold out and this time bought a stock of general merchandise, the old J. F. Kennedy stock, which store he conducted until 1905, in which year he sold the stock to the Union County Investment Company, which retained him as manager of the store. Four years later he bought the store back from the company and continued as owner of the same for three years, at the end of which time he again sold the place and on May 12, 1912, bought the bakery and grocery store which he is now operating, on Main street, near the postoffice. Mr. Simeon's bakery is well equipped with up-to-date appliances and is arranged to comply with all modern requirements in the way of proper sanitation, while his grocery is amply stocked with carefully selected goods. He owns the building in which his establishment is located and is doing very well in a business way. Mr. Simeon is a Democrat and for some time served as a member of the Akron city council. He is a member of the board of directors of the Akron Building and Loan Association and takes an active interest in the general commercial and civic life of the town.

In 1889 William Simeon was united in marriage to Minnie Hitzemann,
(44a)

who was born in Cedar county, this state, July 24, 1870, daughter of Henry and Dorathea (Menke) Hitzemann, the former of whom died on November 8, 1903, and to this union four children have been born, namely: Minnie, who married John Hammond, a barber, of Sutherland, this state, and has four children, Pansy, Cyrel, Arnold and J. P.; Frank, who is farming in the neighboring county of Union, over the river in South Dakota, married Agnes Borden and has two children, Darrell and William; Henry, a barber, of Sutherland, who married Jennie Olson, and Pansy Dorathea, who is at home with her parents. The Simeons are members of the Catholic church, taking a proper interest in parish affairs and Mr. Simeon is a member of the local branch of the Knights of Columbus at Le Mars. He also is secretary of the local lodge of the Modern Woodmen of America and for sixteen years has been secretary of the local Mutual Benefit Association.

REESE HARRIS.

Reese Harris, one of Plymouth county's largest landowners, proprietor of nearly thirteen hundred acres of land in Portland township, one of the organizers of the First National Bank of Akron, former trustee of Portland township and for years actively identified with the work of developing that part of the county, is a native of Wales, but has been a resident of this country since the days of his infancy and of this county since 1888, having come here from Wisconsin, in which state his parents settled upon coming to the United States in 1859. He was born on February 23, 1859, son of Isaac and Elizabeth (Jones) Harris, also natives of Wales, who came with their five children to this country in 1859 and proceeded to Wisconsin, settling in Iowa county, that state, where they spent the rest of their lives.

Upon settling in Wisconsin Isaac Harris bought a farm of three hundred and sixty acres and there established his home, becoming one of the most substantial farmers in that section. Five more children were born to him and his wife after coming to America. The mother of these children died in Wisconsin at the age of fifty-nine years. Isaac Harris survived his wife many years, his death occurring in 1908, he then being eighty-two years of age. They were members of the Baptist church and their children were reared in that faith. There were ten of these children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the fourth in order of birth, the others being as follow: Daniel, a retired farmer, living at Barneveld, in Iowa county, Wisconsin;

John, retired, also a resident of Barneveld; Mary, unmarried, a resident of the same place; David, who is engaged in the mercantile business at Barneveld; Rachel, who married John P. Lewis and lives at Dodgeville, Wisconsin; Margaret, who married Harvey Jones and lives at Madison, Wisconsin; Lula, who married Thomas Jones, a merchant, engaged in business at Barneveld; Isaac, a farmer, of this county, and Elizabeth, who died at the age of four years.

Reese Harris was but an infant when his parents came to this country and he received his elementary schooling in the local schools in the neighborhood of his childhood home in Iowa county, supplementing the same by a course of two years at the University of Wisconsin and a course in a commercial college at Madison. He worked his way through these colleges and for a year thereafter was engaged as a clerk in a store. He then turned his attention to the buying of live stock and for eight years was thus engaged, or until 1888, the year after his marriage, when he came to Plymouth county and rented a farm in Portland township, continuing as a renter for a couple of years, at the end of which time he bought a tract of one hundred and sixty acres in section 10 of that same township, continuing, however, for eight years thereafter to make his home on the rented farm and farming both places. In 1896 he bought a tract of four hundred acres adjoining his original quarter section and on this latter tract erected a fine set of farm buildings and a handsome residence and there has ever since made his home, long having been regarded as one of the most progressive farmers and stockmen in that part of the county. In 1909 Mr. Harris bought an additional tract of seven hundred acres adjoining his home place and is now the owner of twelve hundred and sixty acres in Portland township, his farm extending from the Sioux river east for a distance of two miles, much of the way a mile in width. In addition to his general farming, Mr. Harris long has given considerable attention to the raising of high-grade live stock, making a specialty of Shorthorn cattle and Duroc-Jersey hogs and has done very well. He also has given some attention to other business interests and is a member of the board of directors of the First National Bank at Akron, of which institution he was one of the organizers. He is a Republican and ever since taking up his residence in Plymouth county has given close attention to local civic affairs, for three or four terms having served as trustee of his home township.

In 1887, while living at Barneveld, Wisconsin, Reese Harris was united in marriage to Emma Jones, who was born at that place, a daughter of Evan Jones and wife, who were among the early residents of Barneveld, and to this union five children have been born, namely: Curtis, who died at the age

of twenty-one years, while a student at the Iowa State University, and Barbara, Margaret, Evan and Orin, who are at home. The Harrises are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and take a proper interest in the various beneficences of the same, as well as in the general social activities of the community in which they live, ever helpful in the promotion of all movements having to do with the advancement of the common welfare thereabout.

J. C. BRYANT.

J. C. Bryant, a well-known and successful farmer of Johnson township, Plymouth county, Iowa, was born at Springfield, New York, on September 16, 1861, being the son of James and Jane (Fortesone) Bryant.

James and Jane Fortesone Bryant were born in England, and there received their education in the public schools, grew to manhood and womanhood and later came to the United States, where they were married. As a young man Mr. Bryant engaged in gardening in his native land. On his arrival in this country, he at once located in Springfield, New York, and there he continued in his work as a gardener for some time. In New York state he was married, and there he and his wife resided until they came to Iowa, where their son, J. C. Bryant, had located some years before. On their arrival in Iowa, the mother of J. C. Bryant purchased thirty-three acres of land in Iowa county, and there Mr. and Mrs. Bryant resided until 1892, engaged in farming. They then came to Plymouth county, where they lived with their son, J. C. Bryant, until their deaths, the mother dying in 1896, at the age of fifty-eight years, and the father, on November 1, 1914, at the age of eighty-five years. Mr. and Mrs. Bryant were most estimable people and were held in the highest regard and esteem by all who knew them. They were the parents of the following children: Caroline, J. C., Daniel and Alfred J. Caroline and Daniel are deceased and Alfred J. lives in Chelsea, Iowa. The family have long been prominent in the social and the religious life of the community, where they have ever been held in the highest regard by all. They have had much to do with the social, civic and moral progress of the township and have been active in all the affairs of the community.

J. C. Bryant received his education in the schools of the state of New York and there grew to manhood. As a lad he assisted his father with the work in gardening, but, as a young man, he learned the iron moulder's trade, though he did not work at that for any length of time. He soon engaged in

farm work, and when his father and mother came to Iowa he did most of the work on the little farm. For a time he resided in Iowa county, but in 1891 he came to Plymouth county, where he and his mother purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land, in section 17, Johnson township. The tract at that time was all wild prairie land. They at once built a small house and other small buildings, in which they lived and housed their stock for a number of years. The same year that they came to the county and obtained their farm, Mr. Bryant engaged W. S. Fuller to break one hundred acres of the land and put the same to wheat, Mr. Fuller receiving the crop of wheat for the breaking of the land. The next year J. C. Bryant planted his first wheat and corn and harvested his first crop from the new farm. The first crop of corn was for the most part a failure, as the ground was too new to develop it in the best possible manner. He received a fair crop of wheat that year, which was a great encouragement to continue in his chosen work. He continued in his work of general farming and soon began to prosper. He later built an addition to the house, planted a fine grove and made other valuable improvements, which added much to the beauty and the value of the place.

In 1900 J. C. Bryant was united in marriage to O. E. Wilson of Belle Plains, Iowa. After eight years of married life, Mrs. Bryant died in 1908, mourned by a large circle of friends. On April 27, 1916, Mr. Bryant was united in marriage to A. M. Brown.

As a farmer and stock man, J. C. Bryant has been most successful and his farm is today recognized as one of the best in the community, he being regarded as one of the substantial and successful men of the township. He has erected a fine barn, good granary and other outbuildings, and is now completing a magnificent house, modern in every respect. The house has hardwood floors throughout and the entire wood work of the structure is to be of the very best. An entire basement runs under the house and an up-to-date furnace has been installed. The house is lighted by electric light, the power being from a private plant that has been installed, and there is hot and cold, hard and soft water in all parts of the house. The residence is recognized as one of the finest in this section of the county. The house is nicely located, commanding a pleasant view, and is situated among many beautiful trees that have been planted by Mr. Bryant.

Since making his first purchase of land, J. C. Bryant has increased his land holdings, until he is now the owner of two hundred and forty acres of the best of land, all of which is under high cultivation and well improved. He is a firm believer in thorough cultivation and the keeping of the best of stock. Today his fields are models of the higher art of the modern farmer,

and his Durham cattle and his Chester White hogs are among the best in the community.

Mr. and Mrs. Bryant are native members of the United Brethren church and have long been active in church work, being prominent in the social life of the community. They take much interest in the moral and social development of the district and are held in high regard by all. Mr. Bryant is identified with the Republican party and has always taken a keen interest in the civic life of the township and the county.

HENRY HILLRICHS.

Henry Hillrichs, one of the well-known and successful farmers of Preston township, Plymouth county, Iowa, is a native of Germany, where he was born on January 18, 1865, being the son of Fockke and Amcke Hillrichs.

Fockke and Amcke Hillrichs were also natives of Germany, where they were educated in the public schools, grew to manhood and womanhood and were married. After their marriage they continued to live in the land of their nativity, where the father engaged in farming, and there their children were born. Hillrichs and his wife were active members of the German Lutheran church and took much interest in all church work, being much interested in all church work, being prominent in the social and religious life of the community.

Henry Hillrichs received his education in the schools of his native country and there grew to manhood. He remained a resident of Germany until he was nineteen years of age, when, in 1884, he decided to come to America. On his arrival in the United States, he came direct to Illinois and located in Montgomery county, where he worked as a farm hand for three years. He then removed to Sangamon county, that state, where he worked for four years, after which he rented a farm for two years. He then came to Iowa and located in Plymouth county, where he rented a farm for one year near Dalton. He then moved to Portland township and rented for three years, when he came to Preston township, where he purchased one hundred and sixty acres in section 20. The tract at that time had a small house and barn and the farm was but partially developed. Mr. Hillrichs at once began the task of developing the farm and making more substantial improvements, and today he has one of the desirable farms of the town-

ship. He rebuilt the house and the barn, planted a fine grove, and made many other improvements that has added to the beauty and the value of the place. He engaged in general farming and stock raising, in which he was successful, and is now the owner of four hundred and eighty acres of the best of land, three hundred and twenty of which are in section 16. He does all the farming himself and raises corn, oats, wheat and alfalfa. He has some one hundred head of cattle and generally keeps some two hundred head of hogs.

While a resident of Illinois, Henry Hillrichs was united in marriage to Mana Schmidt, a native of Germany, and to this union the following children were born: Reinhard, Anna, Henry, John, Emma, Fred, Minnie, Bernhard, Harry and Edwin. Mr. and Mrs. Hillrichs are active members of the German Lutheran church.

GEORGE H. FRERICHs.

George H. Frerichs, a well-known and successful farmer of Preston township, Plymouth county, Iowa, was born in Lee county, Illinois, on March 9, 1863, and was the son of Folkert and Gertrude (Smith) Frerichs.

Folkert and Gertrude (Smith) Frerichs were born in Germany, and there they grew to manhood and womanhood and were married. They received their education in the public schools of that country and became members of the German Lutheran church, in which they remained active and influential members. Mr. Frerichs took military training, but was never called for active service in the army. They remained residents of their native land until 1862, when they decided to come to America. They were the parents of two children at that time, and with them they came to the United States and direct to Illinois, where they located in Lee county. For a time Mr. Frerichs worked as a farm hand and later rented land and engaged in farming for himself. Some years later they moved to Jones county, Iowa, and there Mr. Frerichs rented land until 1872, when the family came to Plymouth county. Here he purchased one hundred and twenty acres of wild prairie land in section 23, Preston township. There were no buildings at all on the place and none of the farm had been developed. For six years Mr. Frerichs rented the farm in section 14, where L. C. Oloff now lives, and while living there he broke the greater part of his own land and put in crops. He built a frame house and straw stable, and planted a small grove. During the

early years that he farmed in the county, he was much disturbed by the grasshoppers and many of his crops were practically destroyed. By hard work and close application to business, he began to succeed and in 1879 he moved to his own farm home, which he was to enjoy for but a short time, for he died the next year, and the widow died in 1895. They were the parents of eight children, all of whom are now deceased but three, John H., Herman and George H. John is farming the old home place and Herman is a farmer in Grant township.

George H. Frerichs received his education in the public schools of Preston township, where he grew to manhood on the home farm and as a lad and young man he assisted his father with the work on the farm. Owing to the poor health of his father, he was required at an early age, to assist in the operation of the place, and the work of breaking and developing the tough prairie sod was most difficult. After the death of the father, George H. Frerichs operated the home place and made a home for his mother, until 1883. At that time he was married and went to Sioux county, where he worked as a farm hand for one year, after which he rented land in that county, until 1892, when he returned to Plymouth county. He rented land in Grant township for four years, when he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in section 25, Preston township. The place at that time had a substantial frame house, but the other buildings were poor. He at once started to make the many needed improvements on the farm, and now has a fine barn, a splendid house and beautiful grove. With the exception of the house, the improvements have all been made by Mr. Frerichs, and today he has one of the ideal farm homes of the township.

George H. Frerichs is engaged in general farming and stock raising. He has some fine Shorthorn and Durham cattle and raises and feeds about one hundred and twenty-five hogs each year. He and his wife are much interested in chickens, from which they receive a nice income each year.

In 1883, George H. Frerichs was united in marriage to Martha Zimmerman, a native of Montgomery county, Illinois. To this union the following children have been born: Gertrude, Henry, Gert, Ettie, Ernest and Anna. The last two named are twins and Ettie is now deceased.

Mr. Frerichs is identified with the Republican party and has always taken an active interest in local affairs. For a number of years he served as township trustee and was director of his school district. He and his family are active members of the German Lutheran church and are prominent in the social and religious life of the community. For some years Mr. Frerichs was trustee of the local church organization.

STROBEHN BROTHERS.

Among the well-known and substantial farmers of Lincoln township, this county, the Strobehn brothers, Gust and Will Strobehn, proprietors of a fine farm of two hundred and forty acres in that township, are doing well their part in the general upbuilding of that part of the county. The elder of these brothers was born in this state and the younger was born in the neighboring state of South Dakota and both have been residents of Plymouth county since the days of their childhood. They are the sons of William and Anna (Traer) Strobehn, natives of Germany, the former born in Holstein and the latter in Hamburg, whose last days were spent in this county.

In the days of his young manhood William Strobehn was a sailor and for years sailed the seven seas, becoming familiar with the important ports in all parts of the world. He married in his native land and in 1869 came to this country with his bride, settling at Davenport, this state, in the vicinity of which city he rented a farm and there made his home for two or three years, at the end of which time he moved to Richland, over in Keokuk county, and for a year rented a farm in that vicinity, after which he moved over to South Dakota and for five years rented the W. G. Wallace farm in the Alcaster neighborhood over in Union county, that state. He then, in 1881, moved back to the Richland neighborhood and lived there until 1883, when he came up into Plymouth county and rented the farm which his sons now own and there spent the rest of his life, one of the best-known farmers in that neighborhood, his death occurring in 1886. His widow survived him for more than twenty years, she continuing to make her home on that farm, where her death occurred in 1909. They were the parents of three children, Gust, Bertha and Will.

Gust Strobehn was born on a farm near Davenport, this state, March 10, 1870, and his schooling was received in the schools of Richland and of Alcaster. He also attended school awhile after coming to this county, he having been about thirteen years of age when his parents moved here, and he grew to manhood on the home farm in Portland township, the mainstay of the household after the death of his father in 1886. After the death of their father, their mother renewed the rental of the farm on which they were living and Gust Strobehn, assisted by his younger brother, continued operating the same until 1903, when they bought it and have ever since been operating it as proprietors, the tract of two hundred and forty acres yielding them good returns. Since they bought the place the Strobehn brothers have made many

improvements on the same and now have a well-kept and profitably cultivated farm. They remodeled the house, planted a grove and made other improvements in keeping with their modern standards of agriculture. In addition to their general farming, they give considerable attention to the raising of live stock and are doing very well. Gust Strobehn is a Republican, as is his brother, and for four years, some years ago, served as supervisor of road construction in his district. He is a stockholder in the Farmers Elevator Company at Akron and owns a garage building at Chatsworth.

Will T. Strobehn was born on a farm in the vicinity of Alcaster, in the neighboring county of Union, over the river in South Dakota, and was three years old when the family moved over into this county. He received his schooling in the district school in the neighborhood of his home in Portland township, his first teacher having been Lessie Jeffers, and from early boyhood "made a hand" in the work on the farm, assisting his brother and their mother in the development of the same, and in 1903 joined his brother in the purchase of the place, which they have ever since been operating as proprietors, as noted above.

In 1910 Will T. Strobehn was united in marriage to Frances Traut and to this union four children have been born, William, Florence, Agnes and Leo. Mr. Strobehn is a Republican and takes a good citizen's interest in public affairs. He is a stockholder in the Farmers Elevator Company at Akron and takes a proper interest in the general business activities of the neighborhood. The Strobekns have a pleasant home in Portland township and have ever been helpful factors in the development of that part of the county along all proper lines.

BERNHARD BORCHERS.

Bernhard Borchers, one of the well-known and successful farmers of Preston township, Plymouth county, Iowa, was born in Will county, Illinois, on August 2, 1872, being the son of Bernhard and Anna Borchers.

Bernhard and Anna Borchers were born in Oldenburg, Germany, and there received their education in the public schools, grew to manhood and womanhood and were married. For some years after their marriage they continued to reside in the land of their nativity, where Mr. Borchers was engaged as a laborer. Many of their neighbors and countrymen had come to the United States, where they were making homes for themselves and

their families, and their success caused Mr. and Mrs. Borchers to leave the land of their young manhood and womanhood and sail for America. On their arrival in this country, they came at once to Will county, Illinois, and for a year after their arrival they worked at whatever they could find to do. They then rented a small tract of land and engaged in farming on a small scale, which they continued for thirteen years. In 1881 they moved to Iowa and Mr. Borchers rented eighty acres of land in Plymouth county. He later purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in the county and erected a good and substantial frame house. This farm in Preston township he made his home until the time of his death, in 1901, at the age of sixty-three years. The widow survived for fourteen years, her death occurring in October, 1915, at the age of seventy-three years. They were the parents of eleven children, all but two of whom reached the age of maturity. One died on the voyage to the United States and was buried in the ocean, and Gilbert died in Illinois. The others of the family were, Bernhard, Henry, Mary, August, Louis, Will, John, Anna and Minnie. Henry is a well-known farmer of Johnson township; Mary, now deceased, was the wife of J. Dirk, Brunsville; August, Louis, Will and John are all farming in Preston township. Anna is the wife of Charles Mammer, of Grant township, and Minnie is the wife of Michael Eilers, of Preston township.

After some years, Bernhard Borchers, Sr., added to his original purchase of one hundred and sixty acres of land and became one of the substantial and influential men of the township. He was a firm believer in thorough cultivation and soon had his farm under a high state of improvement. He took much interest in local affairs and had much to do with the progress and development of both the township and the county. He and his wife were most estimable people and were held in the highest regard by all who knew them.

Bernhard Borchers, Jr., the subject of this sketch, received a part of his education in the schools of Illinois, before the family moved to this state, and after the family located in Preston township, he completed his education in the schools of this county. He grew to manhood on the home farm, where, as a lad and young man, he assisted his father with the farm work, and remained at home until the time of his marriage.

In 1899, Bernhard Borchers was united in marriage to Minnie Siebens, whose family were among the earliest settlers in this part of the county, the family having come to this section of the county in an early day and having much to do with the early life of the township and the county. After his marriage, Bernhard Borchers rented two hundred and forty acres of land

of his father in section 9, Preston township, and began life for himself as a farmer. He continued to farm the place for two years, at which time the father died and the estate was settled. Bernhard Borchers paid the difference and retained the whole of the farm of two hundred and forty acres, which he had been working. The buildings on the farm at the time he came here were very poor. Today there is a beautiful two-story frame house, with large barn and many other most substantial buildings, all of which have been placed here by Mr. Borchers and his wife. It has meant a great deal of hard and persistent work to bring the place up to its present high state of perfection, but now it is one of the ideal farms and pleasant homes of the township. The farm is divided into fields, all of which are well fenced. The beautiful grove was on the farm when Mr. Borchers came here, but he has planted and cared for a fine orchard that is growing on the place. He is engaged in general farming and stock raising and has met with much success in his chosen work. He now has some ninety head of fine Hereford cattle and two hundred head of Duroc-Jersey hogs.

Bernhard and Minnie Borchers are the parents of five children, Anna, Lena, Eilert, Lewis and Willie. Mr. and Mrs. Borchers are active members of the German Lutheran church and are prominent in the social and religious life of the community, where they are held in the highest regard and esteem by all. They are a most hospitable people and take much pleasure in the entertainment of their neighbors and friends, their beautiful home often being the scene of a happy gathering. Mr. Borchers has always taken much interest in the political and civic life of the township and the county and has been one of the prominent Republicans of his community. He has served for a number of years as a member of the school board and is at present trustee of his home township.

CLAAS B. FRERICHs.

Claas B. Frerichs, one of the well-known and prominent retired farmers of Preston township, Plymouth county, Iowa, was born in Hanover, Germany, on May 30, 1845, being the son of Claas Carlo and Folka Katherine Frerichs. These parents were also natives of Germany and were educated in the public schools. Mr. Frerichs was a small landowner, and engaged in agricultural pursuits in connection with his work as a tailor. He and his wife were prominent members of society and were active in the work of the

German Lutheran church, of which they were members. They were the parents of the following children, all of whom were born in Germany: John B., Geshga, Mary, Richie, Fargot, Rippie, Henry, Claas and several who died in infancy. The father died in 1855, when the subject, Claas B. Frerichs, was but ten years of age. The mother continued to live in the land of her nativity for some seven or eight years after the death of her husband. At this time, the son, Claas B., brought her to America with him. They located for a time in Dixon, Illinois, and were later in Jones county, Iowa, before coming to Preston township, Plymouth county, where the mother died.

Claas B. Frerichs received his education in the schools of his native land and there grew to manhood. About the year 1862 he decided to come to America and, with his mother, set sail for the United States. For a time after his arrival he was at Dixon, Illinois, where his brothers John B. and Henry, had already located. While residing in the state of Illinois, Mr. Frerichs worked as a farm hand. He later came to Iowa, where he worked on a farm in Jones county until the spring of 1871, when he came to Preston township. Here he purchased a homestead right to eighty acres of land in section 22, and at once built himself a shanty, twelve by fourteen feet. The farm at that time was, for the most part, wild prairie and required much hard work to place under cultivation. Mr. Frerichs had two colts, both too young to work, and one horse. A neighbor, Mr. Collman, also had but one horse, so between them they had a team and much of their farm work was done in partnership. The first season Mr. Frerichs succeeded in planting about five acres of wheat and received a harvest of fifty bushels. In the fall of the year 1871 he homesteaded eighty acres in Preston township and continued his work of development as rapidly as possible, soon having a large part of the tough prairie sod broken and in shape to put under cultivation. He purchased more land and at one time had six hundred and eighty acres, but later sold one hundred and sixty acres to two of his sons. He now owns three hundred and sixty acres, all of which is under high cultivation and well improved. For a number of years the family lived in the small shanty that was at first built on the original farm. He later built a large and substantial frame house, which is now occupied by the son, Rickloff. The farm is also improved with a fine, large grove and a splendid barn and other buildings. Mr. Frerichs was actively engaged in farm work until 1911, when he rented the home farm to his son, Rickloff. At this time he built a cottage, near the old home residence, and here he has lived a retired life.

In March, 1868, Claas B. Frerichs was united in marriage to Margareta Richloss, who was born in Germany and there received her education in the public schools, and who later, came to the United States. To this union thirteen children were born, seven of whom are now living: Claas Carl, Dietrich, Rickloff, Henry, Katie, Lizzie and Mertie. The boys of the family are all engaged in farming and the girls have married farmers, all of whom are prosperous and are highly respected.

Politically, Claas B. Frerichs is identified with the Republican party and his first vote for President was cast for U. S. Grant. He has always taken much interest in local affairs and has held a number of the important township offices. He has endeared himself to the people of the community and is held in the highest regard and esteem by all. He and his wife always took much interest in the social and the religious life of the district, being prominent members of the German Lutheran church.

GEORGE A. REMBE.

George A. Rembe, one of the well-known and prominent farmers of Preston township, Plymouth county, Iowa, was born in Warren county, Illinois, in 1870, being the son of George and Dorothy (Yutze) Rembe, both of whom were natives of Bavaria.

George Rembe, the father of the subject of this sketch, was born in Bavaria, Germany, on March 6, 1847, and was the son of George and Maria (Swallow) Rembe, natives of Bavaria. These grandparents received their education in the schools of their native land and there grew to manhood and womanhood and were married. They later established their home on a farm in the locality where they were born, and there they lived and died. They were active members of the Lutheran church and were the parents of the following children: Valentine, Phillip, George, Fred, Barbara and Elizabeth. Valentine, for many years a well-known farmer of Liberty township, this county, is now deceased; Phillip, now dead, came to the United States and lived for a time in Plymouth county, and also in Chicago; Fred is engaged in farming in O'Brien county, Iowa, and Barbara and Elizabeth are still residents of Bavaria.

George Rembe received his education in the public schools of his native land and there grew to manhood on the home farm, where as a lad he

assisted his father with the farm work. He remained at home until he was seventeen years of age, at which time his father died and he at once began farming for himself, in the vicinity of his old home. At the age of twenty, George Rembe was united in marriage to Dorothy Yutze, also a native of that section of the country. In 1869, the next year after their marriage, they decided to come to America and, after a voyage of one month, they landed in New York, and at once came to Illinois, locating in Warren county, where they remained for two years. In 1872 they came to Plymouth county, Iowa, and homesteaded a farm in Preston township, which was later developed into one of the ideal farms of the township. Mr. Rembe engaged in general farming and stock raising until 1902, when he retired from the activities of farm life and moved to Le Mars, where he now lives. He still retains and manages his farm of three hundred and twenty acres.

To George and Dorothy Rembe eight children have been born, namely: Elizabeth is the wife of William E. Croft of Seattle, Washington; Annie is at home; Phillip and George A. are farming on the home place; Mamie is unmarried and resides in Seattle; William is assistant cashier of the German-American Savings Bank at Le Mars; Dollie is the wife of A. D. Pierson, of Le Mars, and Fred is a butter maker at Topeka, Indiana.

George Rembe has always taken a keen interest in local affairs and was school director for nineteen years and treasurer for nine years. He was assessor for many years and was elected supervisor in 1898, being chairman of the board. In 1900 he served as census taker for Grant and Preston townships. Fraternally, he is a member of the Masonic order, including the blue lodge, chapter and commandery, all at Le Mars, and the consistory and the Ancient Arabic Order of Nobles of the Mystic Shrine at Sioux City. He and his wife are active members of the Presbyterian church and have long been prominent in the social life of the community.

George A. Rembe received his education in the public schools of Preston township, one of his early teachers being the well-known educator, John H. Moore. He grew to manhood on the home farm and remained with his father until twenty-six years of age, when he began farming for himself. At that time, he and his brother-in-law, W. A. Croft, formed a partnership and rented three hundred and twenty acres in Portland township, which they farmed for one year. They then operated the father's farm for one year, after which they were for two years on a farm in Johnson township. At this time, George A. Rembe and his brother, Phillip, formed a

partnership, under the firm name of Rembe Brothers, and since that time have been farming their father's place of three hundred and twenty acres, engaging in general farming and stock raising. They cultivate about one hundred acres of wheat and oats each year and one hundred acres of corn. They are both progressive farmers and are much interested in live stock. They have some fifty head of fine Shorthorn cattle and one hundred and twenty-five head of Duroc-Jersey hogs. They have from twelve to fifteen head of good horses to do the large amount of work on the place.

George A. and Phillip Rembe have always been active in local affairs and are identified with the Republican party. George A. has served his township as assessor and was school director for a number of years. In the fall of 1908 he was elected county supervisor for his district and served in that position for six years. As a public official, he gave the same careful attention to his duties that he does to his own interests. During his official career, he won the confidence and the respect of the people of his county because of his progressive and efficient service, many permanent public improvements having been made during his term of office.

These two brothers are active members of the Presbyterian church and have always taken much interest in church work and are prominent in the social activities of the community, where they are held in the highest regard. They are unmarried.

BIRNEY COOLEDGE WOOLLEY.

Birney C. Woolley was the first man in Plymouth county to serve as county engineer under a recent law enacted in Iowa, creating such office. Mr. Woolley, who is one of the later residents to locate in Le Mars, was born in Whiteside county, Illinois, September 6, 1867. After receiving his education he entered the profession of a civil engineer, which he followed until he accepted the appointment of his present office. His work as a map-drawer and plat-book maker, as well as accountant in rendering intricate, detailed reports to the county officers on bridges, highways, drainage work and general civil engineering work, shows him to be an expert draftsman and up-to-date engineer.

B. C. Woolley was united in marriage to Miss Matie Clarke on June 3, 1914.



BIRNEY C. WOOLLEY



MRS. M. CLARKE-WOOLLEY

MRS. M. CLARKE-WOOLLEY.

In this day and age when woman is coming to the front in holding positions once accorded to the sterner sex only, it is a pleasure to briefly sketch the career of one of Plymouth county's daughters, who by untiring industry and native ability, has prepared herself for the responsible position she now holds in the community—that of secretary and general manager of the Plymouth County Abstract Company, at Le Mars.

Mrs. Matie Clarke-Woolley is the daughter of the late De Witt C. Clarke and wife. She was born in Battle Creek, Michigan, March 31, 1867. An extended reference to Mrs. Clarke-Woolley's parents is to be found in another part of this work.

From early childhood Mrs. Clarke-Woolley has resided in Le Mars, where she has the widest possible range of acquaintance, for the lines of work in which she has been engaged have brought her in touch with the general public. At the early age of thirteen years she was appointed the first librarian of the Le Mars public library, which she cared for five years. It was only upon certain days of the week, thus allowing her to attend to her school duties until she had graduated. The next step was really the key to all the years of her life-work, for it was then that she accepted a position in the abstract office of Doctor Hilbert. After two years faithful service in Doctor Hilbert's office, she was tendered the position of deputy county recorder under Wallace Winslow, and in accepting this became the first female deputy ever appointed in the county. After two years she and Mr. Winslow purchased the Hilbert abstract books, and for fifteen years she was deputy recorder and also owned and ran a set of abstract books. Following that she was engaged by the late Hon. Isaac Struble to do his abstract work also. All this experience fitted her to engage in the abstract business on her own account which she did. In 1909, Miss Clarke with I. S. and G. T. Struble bought all the abstract books in the county and formed the present corporation. A little later she bought most of the stock of the company, not then already in her possession.

In early womanhood, per force of circumstances, she was thrown on her own resources, hence saw the necessity of preparing herself for filling some useful position that might the better support herself in a dignified and independent manner. As a librarian she was a success and really brought order out of confusion in the city library during her time there. As deputy county recorder, it was not long before her skill and ability were recognized by all who had to do with that important office. The scores of record-books of

the county are evidence of her taste and accuracy, each volume of which is a lasting monument to her painstaking methods.

In 1897 on account of ill health, she was ordered to quit the abstract business, when she was returned to the work of city librarian again. One year there found her fully restored and she resumed her labors as a professional abstracter, in which she has made an enviable record.

Besides making a financial success of her profession, she has proven that a woman can give service equal to a man and do it legitimately and honorably. Unlike a great majority of Plymouth county women, Mrs. M. Clarke-Woolley is an ardent anti-suffragette.

In her church relations she has been a life-long worker in the Episcopal church, of which she is an exemplary member.

In the various societies of her county and city she takes much interest, in every measure calculated to make the community better. She has served as secretary of the Plymouth County Old Settler's Association; secretary of the Le Mars chapter of the Order of Eastern Star for seventeen years. These records display her thoroughness and method of carefully preserving that which will ere long be looked upon as priceless.

Miss Matie Clarke became the wife of the county engineer, B. C. Woolley, June 3, 1914. She retained her family name and she is now known as Mrs. M. Clarke-Woolley.

CHARLES J. WILLER.

Charles J. Willer, one of the best-known and most substantial farmers of Portland township, this county, owner of a half section of land in that township, is a native of Germany, but has been a resident of Iowa since the days of his boyhood. He was born on the Island of Femern, off the coast of Schleswig-Holstein, March 12, 1872, son of Jergen and Gertrude (Gilstof) Willer, natives of that same island, the former born on March 17, 1832, and the latter, February 4, 1840. They came to the United States in 1880, two of their children having preceded them here, and located in Benton county, this state, the father and mother and five children there joining the sons, Henry and Hans, who had come over to this country and settled there some time previously. There Jergen Willer became engaged as a tile ditcher and was thus employed until 1894, when he came to Plymouth county and bought a quarter of a section of land in Westfield township, which he put in charge of his son, the subject of this sketch. In 1896 his

wife died at their home in Benton county and he then came to this county and located on his farm in Westfield township, where he has ever since made his home, though now retired from the active labors of the farm, renting his place. He is a member of the German Lutheran church, as was his wife, and their children were reared in that faith. There were eight of these children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the fifth in order of birth, the others being as follow: Peter, who was drowned at the age of two years; Henry, who is a resident of Westfield township, this county; Hans, a resident of the same township; Julius, who died of appendicitis at Akron in 1910; Anna, who married Emil Heck and lives at Hartwick, Minnesota; Nicholas, a resident of Preston township, this county, and Lena, who died at the age of twelve years.

Charles J. Willer was about twelve years of age when he came to this country with his parents and he completed his schooling in the public schools of Benton county, this state, in the meantime growing up to the life of a farmer. After his marriage, in 1895, he established his home on the farm of one hundred and sixty acres his father had just bought in Westfield township, this county, renting the same for a year, at the end of which time he rented a farm from Dyer & Rogers, of Le Mars, and made his home on the latter place for a period of six years. He then bought a quarter section in section 32 of Portland township, moved onto the same and has ever since made his home there. Six years after taking possession of that place Mr. Willer bought an adjoining quarter section and has since been the owner of a fine farm of three hundred and twenty acres. On this farm Mr. Willer has erected excellent buildings and his farm is regarded as one of the best-improved places in that neighborhood. In addition to general farming, he gives considerable attention to the raising of live stock and is doing very well. He also owns a house and three lots in Akron. Mr. Willer is a Republican and for years served as a member of the school board, four years of that time being president of the same.

On December 28, 1895, Charles J. Willer was united in marriage to Gertrude Mengelson, who also was born in Germany, a daughter of Nicholas Mengelson and wife, and to this union two sons have been born, Edward and Roy. The Willers are members of the Lutheran church and take a proper interest in the various beneficences of the same, as well as in the general social activities of the community in which they live, ever helpful in promoting all proper movements for the advancement of the common welfare thereabout.

HENRY J. KLEIHAUER.

Henry J. Kleihauer, owner of a well-kept farm of a quarter of a section of fine land in Grant township, is a native son of Iowa, born on a farm in Jones county, this state, December 3, 1870, son of John and Mary (Gardenhuesen) Kleihauer, natives of Germany, who became pioneers of Plymouth county, where the former spent his last days and where the latter is still living.

John Kleihauer was born in Ostfriesland and worked as a laborer and as a farm hand in his native land until he came to this country in 1867, locating at Sterling, Illinois, whence, after awhile, he came to Iowa and located in Jones county, where he remained until 1871, in which year he came with his family to Plymouth county and bought a homestead right to a tract of eighty acres in section 32 of Grant township, where he established his home and where he spent the rest of his life, his death occurring there in 1892. Upon coming to this county John Kleihauer lost little time in getting his pioneer place under cultivation and was soon accounted one of the substantial farmers of that part of the county. He put up a small shack on his homestead tract, which served as a home for his family until he could erect a more commodious and comfortable residence. The straw barn which he at first put up for the protection of his cattle also soon was supplanted by a better barn and the other improvements on his place quickly took on a substantial air. As he prospered he added to his land holdings until at the time of his death in 1892 he was the owner of a fine farm of two hundred and forty acres. His widow is still living on the old home place. They were the parents of nine children, five of whom are still living, those besides the subject of this sketch being as follow: Meta, who married Albert Lubben; Angel, who married Henry Ludwig; Anna, unmarried, who is at home with her mother, and Atta, who married Albert Dirks.

Henry Kleihauer was but an infant when his parents moved over here from Jones county and he grew to manhood on the home farm in Grant township, receiving his schooling in the pioneer schools of his home district, and from boyhood was a valued assistant to his father in the labors of developing and improving the home place. He was twenty-two years of age when his father died and he remained with his mother on the home place until after his marriage in 1902, when he bought the quarter section on which he is now living and there has made his home ever since, he and his family being very pleasantly situated. Mr. Kleihauer has expended

about ten thousand dollars in improvements on his farm and has a fine, modern house and an excellent set of farm buildings. He feeds about one hundred head of hogs a year and has done very well with his live stock, as well as with his general farming, being accounted one of the progressive and up-to-date farmers of that part of the county. Mr. Kleihauer is a Republican and has served his community in the capacity of school director.

In 1902 Henry J. Kleihauer was united in marriage to Hannah Dirks, daughter of John Dirks and wife, and to this union five children have been born, Annie, John, Mary, Meta and Atta. The Kleihauers are members of the German Lutheran church and take a proper interest in the affairs of the same, as well as in all neighborhood good works.

CHARLES D. EBERHARD.

Charles D. Eberhard, a well-to-do and prominent farmer of Liberty township, Plymouth county, Iowa, was born at Galena, Illinois, in 1861, being the son of David and Barbara (Holch) Eberhard, both of whom were natives of Germany, the father having been born in Baden-Baden and the mother in Wurtemberg.

David Eberhard received his education in the public schools of his native land and lived there until 1856, when he came to the United States with his father, Michael Eberhard, who settled in Illinois, where he established a home on a farm, and where he died some years later. In 1860, David Eberhard was united in marriage to Barbara Holch, who had come to America some years before and, with her parents, had settled at Galena, Illinois. Eight years later, Mr. and Mrs. Eberhard came to Plymouth county, Iowa, and here Mr. Eberhard took a pre-emption of forty acres, for which he paid one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre, and a homestead of eighty acres, all of which was in section 12, Liberty township. He built a small one-room shanty on the pre-emption, where he lived until the fall of 1869, at which time he had proved up on the forty acres, and then moved the house over on the homestead. In the spring of 1869, he returned to Illinois and brought the family to the new home on the plains. The trip was made overland, with a wagon and four horses. The family brought provisions to last them for a year and were thus prepared to devote their time to the development of their farm. The first year saw thirty acres of the tough prairie sod broken and ready for cultivation, but there were no crops

to gather until 1871. Then for some years the greater part of his crops were destroyed by the grasshoppers.

The family lived in the first house for eleven years, when a better, though small, frame house was erected. Mr. Eberhard continued to engage in general farming, with success, until 1892. He purchased more land and was the owner of two hundred acres when he retired to Merrill, where he died in 1905; the wife and mother died in 1904.

David and Barbara Eberhard were the parents of the following children: Charles D., Elizabeth, Bertha, John, Amelia, Herma, Julia, Henry, Jacob and one that died in infancy. Bertha is the wife of Ernest Stohsner and lives at Santa Clara, California; John is with a telephone company at Lane, South Dakota; Amelia married William Haden, of Merrill, Iowa; Julia is the wife of L. E. Ansmon, of Wessington Springs, South Dakota; Henry is at Ash Creek, South Dakota, and Jacob is farming near Hinton, Iowa.

Charles E. Eberhard received his education in the old sod school house near his father's homestead. He remained at home until he was twenty years of age, when he went to California, where he resided for nine years. In 1890 he returned to Plymouth county and assumed the management of his father's farm, in partnership with his brother, John. For three years this partnership continued, when Charles D. managed it for the next five years alone. He then purchased the entire farm, of two hundred acres, at sixty-five dollars per acre, since which time he has made many improvements. In 1913 he remodeled the house and today has one of the splendid two-story houses of the township. He has a fine barn, forty-two by one hundred feet, with a hay capacity of one hundred and twenty tons. His buildings are all practically new and are kept in the highest state of repair. In 1900 he purchased two hundred acres of land in sections 11 and 12, for which he paid one hundred dollars per acre, and now values it at two hundred dollars per acre, and on the home place he will not place a value.

Mr. Eberhard is engaged in general farming and stock raising and is active in the operation of the larger part of his large farm, only a part of it being rented. He raises a large number of both cattle and hogs, in addition to the many that he buys for fattening purposes. In addition to his many cattle, he generally has some one hundred and sixty head of hogs and twenty-two horses.

On March 6, 1894, Charles E. Eberhard was united in marriage to Minnie Kalas, and to this union the following children have been born;

Harold, Walter, Carl, Rudolph, Willard, Eldon and Ruth. Mr. and Mrs. Eberhard are active members of the Evangelical Lutheran church, of which Mr. Eberhard is a liberal supporter. They have long been active in the social life of the township and are held in the highest regard by all who know them.

Politically, Mr. Eberhard is identified with the Republican party and has had much to do with the civic and business life of the township and the county. For eight years he served as clerk of the township and was for a number of years clerk of the school board.

CHRISTIAN MUNSCH.

Among the many citizens of the great state of Iowa, who were born in foreign countries and who have come to the United States, where they have entered into the spirit of our free institutions, established homes and engaged in the various vocations, may be mentioned Christian Munsch, a native of Prussia, Germany, where he was born on December 17, 1846, and now a prosperous farmer of Liberty township, Plymouth county, Iowa. His parents were Christian and Mary Munsch, who were of the highly respected farming class in their native land, where they lived and died.

Christian Munsch received his education in the public and parochial schools of his native land and, as a lad, assisted his father with the work on the farm. After having served two years in the army, he decided to come to the United States. On his arrival in this country he came direct to Dubuque, Iowa, but after a time, started, with a team of oxen, for Plymouth county. There was a large party of German settlers that made this overland journey with Mr. Munsch to Johnson township. In the party was Christ Miller, for whom Mr. Munsch worked for some time. In 1873 he homesteaded eighty acres of wild land in section 30, Liberty township. Here he built a small frame shanty and devoted a part of his time to the development of his place. During the first two years he devoted much of his time to butchering and working as a farm hand for others. In 1874 he succeeded in breaking some of his land and planted a little sod corn. His first farming was done with oxen, but in time he had horses and was able to engage more extensively in his chosen work.

In 1875 Mr. Munsch was united in marriage to Josephine Lukasan, a native of Bohemia. For some time after his marriage, Mr. Munsch worked

in Sioux City, but in 1876 removed to the farm, where he and his wife lived in the little shanty that he built when he took his homestead, and in this house they continued to live until they built their present substantial home. A beautiful grove was planted and good farm buildings were erected, the splendid barn having been built in 1907. As he prospered, Mr. Munsch purchased another eighty acres in section 29, and he is today actively engaged in the operation of a tract of one hundred and sixty acres. He practices mixed farming and has a large number of cattle and hogs.

Christian and Josephine Munsch are the parents of eight children, Ed, John, William, Albert, Mary, Minnie, Josie and Elizabeth. They are devout members of the Catholic church and have reared their children in that faith. Mr. Munsch has always taken an active interest in local affairs, and has served his township as trustee and as a member of the school board, being today recognized as one of the prominent and influential men of the county.

JOHN LUDWIGS.

John Ludwigs, one of Grant township's progressive farmers and stockmen, is a native of Germany, but has been a resident of this country since he was eighteen years of age. He was born in Ostfriedland on January 9, 1872, son of H. G. and Lizzie (Ornts) Ludwigs, natives of that same district, who spent all their lives in their native land. They were the parents of six children, of whom four are still living, namely: William, who continues to live in Germany; John, the subject of this biographical sketch; Eva, who married Fred Carsons and is living in Portland township, this county, and Henry, a well-known farmer of Washington township, this county, and trustee of that township.

At the age of fourteen years John Ludwigs quit school and began to make a living for himself, working in his native land until he was eighteen years of age, when he came to this country, proceeding directly to Iowa and locating at Le Mars, where for a year he worked for Henry Ludwigs. He then worked for two years for John Van Hagel and for one year for George Frerichs, of Preston township, this county, after which he went over into South Dakota and homesteaded a farm in the vicinity of Chamberlain and remained there for a year, at the end of which time he returned to Plymouth county and for two years thereafter was engaged working for John Doering. He then married and settled on the farm where he is now living, in section

30 of Grant township, and has since then made many valuable improvements on the place. He erected a new house in 1900 and in 1915 built a new barn according to up-to-date requirements. Mr. Ludwigs pays considerable attention to the raising of a good grade of live stock and has been quite successful in that line, as well as in his general farming. In his political views he is independent and has never aspired for political office.

In 1896 John Ludwigs was united in marriage to Mrs. Mary Siebels, widow of Jergen Siebels, who by her first marriage was the mother of one child, a daughter, Katie, and to this union five children have been born, Henry, Fred, Sena, Willie and Otto. The Ludwigs are members of the Lutheran church and take a proper interest in all neighborhood good works.

HENRY WERLEY.

Henry Werley, a well-known and progressive farmer of Elgin township, is a native of the state of Illinois, born in Whiteside county, that state, but has been a resident of this county since the days of his youth. He was born on August 20, 1872, son of Mathias and Rosa (Haberer) Werley, natives of Germany, both born in the grand duchy of Baden, who were married in their native land just before taking their departure for America in 1868. Upon their arrival in this country they proceeded to Illinois and were engaged in farming in the vicinity of Sterling, that state, until 1882, in which year they came to Iowa and settled on a farm in Elgin township, this county, and have ever since been residents of that township. In a biographical sketch relating to Mathias Werley, presented elsewhere in this volume, there is set out in greater detail something more of the history of this family in this county and to that sketch the reader's attention is respectfully invited for further information in this connection.

Henry Werley was the second in order of birth of the six children born to his parents and was ten years of age when he came to this county with his parents in 1882 and settled on a pioneer farm in Elgin township. There he grew to manhood, receiving his schooling in the old school house in district No. 1, and from boyhood was a valued assistant to his father in the labors of developing the home place. He remained at home, farming with his father, until his marriage in 1895, when he rented a quarter of a section from his father, the place on which he is still living, and has since then continued to farm the place, though now farming two hundred acres in sections 11 and

14. Mr. Werley has improved his place in excellent shape and he and his family have a very pleasant home. He feeds about one hundred and forty hogs a year and has done very well in his live-stock operations, in addition to his general farming, in which latter he also has been quite successful. Mr. Werley is a Democrat and gives a good citizen's attention to local civic affairs, but has never been an aspirant for public office.

In 1895 Henry Werley was united in marriage to Emma Siege, daughter of Frederick and Sophia Siege, and to this union two children have been born, Edison and Luella. The Werleys are members of the German Lutheran church and take a proper interest in the various beneficences of the same, as well as in the general social activities of the community in which they live, and are helpful in promoting all agencies designed to advance the common welfare in that neighborhood.

D. E. WARNER.

D. E. Warner, one of Union township's progressive young farmers and stockmen, the proprietor of a well-improved farm of one hundred and sixty acres in that township, is a native of the state of Illinois, but has lived in this county since he was sixteen years of age. He was born at Ridott, in Stephenson county, Illinois, March 16, 1875, son and only child of James D. and Julia A. (Draper) Warner, the former of whom was born at Antioch, in Lake county, Illinois, and the latter at Racine, Wisconsin.

James D. Warner was the fourth in order of birth of the eight children born to his parents. Chase and Malinda Warner, of Illinois, the others being as follow: Daniel, now living in Oklahoma; Sarah, living in Idaho; Mary, of Florida; George, who died at St. Joseph, Missouri; John, who is living in Oklahoma; William, who died in Wyoming, and Florence, who married David Harvey, of Union township, this county. The father of these children died in Chicago years ago and his widow later came to this county, where her last days were spent. James D. Warner was a merchant at Salem, Illinois, where his death occurred in 1879, his son and only child at that time being four years of age. His widow was a daughter of Asa B. and Jane (Smith) Draper, the former a native of Burlington, Vermont, and the latter of Springfield, Massachusetts, who in 1832 located at Racine, Wisconsin, later moving to Freeport, Illinois, where their last days were spent. Asa B.

Draper and wife were the parents of seven children, two of whom died in early youth, the others, besides the mother of the subject of this sketch, being as follow: Ellen, who married Samuel Metcalf; N. A., now a retired merchant, living at Le Mars, this county; Irene, now living at Des Moines, this state, widow of William Warner, and Arthur, who died in San Francisco in 1915.

D. E. Warner, better known among his friends as Elmer Warner, was sixteen years of age when he came to this county from Illinois with his widowed mother in 1891 and settled on a farm of eighty acres in section 24 of Union township, where he ever since has made his home, and where he since has added to his holdings by the purchase of an adjoining "eighty", for years having been farming the quarter section, on which he has made valuable improvements, now having an excellent farm plant. In addition to his general farming, Mr. Warner has given considerable attention to the raising of live stock and for the past ten years has been a breeder of the big type Poland China hogs, with which he has been quite successful, having an average of about two hundred head. He also keeps a good herd of Short-horn cattle and is doing very well in that line.

On March 16, 1898, Elmer Warner was united in marriage to Sarah Parry, who also was born in Illinois, daughter of Jacob and Caroline (Evans) Parry, natives of Wales, who came to this country and in 1888 settled on a farm in Union township, this county, where Jacob Parry spent his last days and where his widow is still living. Mr. and Mrs. Warner have two children, Edna and Harold, who are attending the Union consolidated school of Union township. The Warners have a very pleasant home and take a proper part in the general social activities of the community in which they live, helpful in all neighborhood good works.

GUST A. DENNLER.

Gust A. Dennler, one of Plymouth township's well-known and progressive farmers and former trustee of that township, is a native of the old Hoosier state, but has been a resident of this county since he was about three years of age and has consequently been a witness to and a participant in the development of the county since pioneer days, for it was in 1872 that his parents came to Plymouth county, thus having been among the pioneers of the

county. Gust A. Dennler was born in the city of La Porte, Indiana, November 22, 1869, son of George and Anna R. (Morfe) Dennler, natives of the republic of Switzerland, who became pioneers of this county and here spent their last days.

George Dennler came to the United States from Switzerland when about eighteen years of age and located at La Porte, Indiana, where he engaged at work at his trade, that of a blacksmith, and where he married Anna R. Morfe, who also was born in Switzerland. In 1872 he came to Iowa with his family and homesteaded a tract of eighty acres in Liberty township, this county. There he established his home and as he prospered in his undertakings added to his holdings until at the time of his death he was the owner of two hundred and forty acres of well-improved land. He took an active part in public affairs in his home community in the early days and had served as a school director and as road "boss." He and his wife were the parents of five children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the third in order of birth, the others being George J., Albert, Edward R. and Mrs. Mary Heiden.

Gust A. Dennler was about three years of age when his parents came to this county and he grew to manhood on the homestead farm in Liberty township. He received his schooling in the neighborhood schools and from the days of his boyhood was a valued assistant to his father in the labors of developing and improving the home place, remaining there until after his marriage, when, in 1895, he began farming on his own account on a quarter section adjoining the home place in Liberty township. There he remained until 1913, in which year he sold that quarter section and bought the farm of two hundred and twenty-three acres in Plymouth township, where he is now living and where he ever since has made his home. Mr. Dennler has done very well in his farming operations and is recognized as one of the substantial farmers of that neighborhood. In addition to his general farming he gives considerable attention to the raising of live stock and feeds from one hundred to one hundred and forty head of hogs a year. Mr. Dennler is a Republican and has given his close attention to local civic affairs, for a number of years having served the public as trustee of Liberty township.

In 1894 Gust A. Dennler was united in marriage to Josie Pollard, daughter of William Pollard and wife, and to this union seven children have been born, Gus, Edward, Alvin, George Wesley, Lillian, Laura and Gladys. The eldest daughter, Lillian Dennler, married L. A. Zunkel. The Dennlers are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and take a proper interest in

church affairs, as well as in the general social activities of the community in which they live, helpful in the work of promoting all movements having to do with the advancement of the common welfare.

HENRY A. ANDERSON.

Plymouth county, Iowa, has been signally favored in the high class of citizens born in far-away Sweden who have settled within her boundary lines, for here are to be found many who have had much to do with the development of the country, being hard workers and always ready to do their share in furthering any movement looking to the financial, educational and moral good of the community where they reside. By them, much of the wild waste of prairie land has been converted into blooming fields and well-established homes. Of this number may well be mentioned Henry A. Anderson, a prosperous farmer and stock man of Perry township. He has shown that he is possessed of those rare attributes that never fail to win in the struggle for success. This well-known man and worthy citizen was born on March 12, 1866, and is the son of A. J. and Anna (Anderson) Anderson.

August Anderson, the paternal grandfather of the subject, was a farmer in Sweden and there lived and died. A. J. and Anna Anderson, after having completed their education in the common schools of their native land, were married and established their little home on a farm where they spent their remaining days. Their horizon of activity, from necessity, was limited. The established customs of the country and the limited amount of available tillable land made their lives hard ones. They were active members of the Swedish Lutheran church and were consistent Christians, a characteristic of the people of that country. The following children were born to them: Gusta, Adolph, Hulda, Carl, Henry A. and Sophia.

Henry A. Anderson, who received his education in the public schools of Sweden and there resided until he was twenty-two years of age, was the only member of the family who came to the United States. In 1888 he decided to leave the land that is dear to every native-born Swede and seek a home in far-away America. After having landed at the port of New York, he proceeded to Iowa, where he worked in the coal mines of Lucas county for eight months. He next did work in a gravel pit at Worthington, Minnesota, for the Chicago, Minneapolis & St. Paul railroad, after which he moved to

Sheldon, Iowa, and then to Sioux City, where he remained for eleven years engaged in various sorts of work. He next took up his residence at Creston, Iowa, where he rented land and engaged in farming for six years. In 1904 he came to Plymouth county and purchased four hundred acres of land in sections 9 and 16, Perry township, where he has since made his home. He later sold eighty acres of the tract and today has a most excellent farm of three hundred and twenty acres and is successfully engaged in general farming and stock raising. He has some fine Hereford cattle, many of them being registered, and also keeps many fine hogs. The barn on the place was built in 1906 and the substantial house was remodeled and made modern in 1913.

On October 25, 1898, at Creston, Iowa, Mr. Anderson was united in marriage to Anna Asplund, who was a native of Sweden and there spent the first eight years of her life. Her parents, C. A. and Bertha (Johnson) Asplund, were also natives of that country. As a young man the father learned the tailor trade, but later engaged in farming. In 1880 the Asplund family came to the United States, locating on a farm in Perry township, and were at that time considered pioneers. With true Swedish spirit, the parents entered into the task of developing and improving their farm and were soon recognized as among the substantial people of the township. The father died on February 8, 1914, at the age of sixty-eight years and the mother died on February 28, 1913, at the age of sixty-seven years.

To Henry A. and Anna Anderson have been born six children, as follow: Edith, Judith, Wallace, Alfred, Charles and Pauline. Mr. and Mrs. Anderson have, by their spirit of kindness and generosity, won for themselves and their family many friends in the community and are held in the highest regard and esteem by all who know them.

PAUL ROSBURG.

Paul Rosburg, one of the most popular and successful farmers in Perry township, was born in Germany on May 25, 1859, being the son of Frederick and Mary (Seitz) Rosburg, both of whom were natives of that country. In 1867 the family decided to come to America, where there were better opportunities for the parents and those dependent upon them. Educated as they were in the schools of Germany, they were taught the strictest economy and

industry; thus it was that, when the father and mother left the land of their nativity and the many never-to-be-forgotten scenes of their childhood, they were well prepared, so far as their training was concerned, to care for themselves in the new land. The father, as a young man, learned the wagon-maker's trade, but when he came to the United States and located at Shellburg, Benton county, Iowa, where he died, he followed the occupation of a carpenter.

To Frederick and Mary Rosburg were born the following children: Mary, William, Eula, Adolph and Paul. The mother of these children died many years ago, and after her death the father married Mary Schotle, to whom the following children were born: Charles, Herman, Margaret and Emma. The family were reared in the faith of the German Lutheran church and lived consistent Christian lives.

Paul Rosburg was but eight years of age when he came with his parents to Benton county, Iowa, where he received his education and grew to manhood. In 1895 he was united in marriage to Mary Saggan and they established their home in Crawford county, where Mr. Rosburg owned a farm. In 1901 he sold his farm in that county and moved to Plymouth county, where he purchased land and at one time owned seven hundred and seventy-six acres. He now lives in section 2 and is engaged in general farming and stock raising, being numbered among the substantial and successful men of the county. The buildings were on the place when Mr. Rosburg purchased the tract, yet he has done much in the way of improvement. His farm is one of the best in the township and is under a high state of cultivation and nicely located.

Mary Saggan Rosburg was born on September 7, 1864, and is the daughter of Hans and Christine (Storjohann) Saggan, who were natives of Denmark, and he was a soldier in the Prussian war. The family came to the United States in 1872, landing at the port of New York, and came at once to Chicago, the year after the devastating fire. Mr. Saggan farmed in Illinois for some years and then came to Iowa, locating in Crawford county. It was there that Paul Rosburg met and married their daughter, Mary, and to this union the following children have been born: Edward, who married Augusta Fester; August, whose wife is Alexandra Zoun; Christine, the wife of Fred Topken; Martin, whose wife is Agnes Curry; Julius; Charles; Marie, the wife of Harry Schindel; Ella, Paul and Anna.

FRED GRONEMEYER.

Germany has given to the United States many of our best and most valued citizens—men and women, who have developed many of our natural resources and have become prominent in the social and the business world of the states and the nation. Many of these men and women have come to this country, educated in their particular lines of endeavor. Others have come here, unprepared and unknown to the ways of our social and business life. However, the greater number who come to our country have been educated in the most excellent schools of Germany and have been taught the principles of economy and industry. They come here with the determination to “make good” and to secure a home for themselves and their families. Among the prominent and successful native-born Germans in Plymouth county, Iowa, is Fred Gronemeyer, who was born on May 10, 1864, and is the son of Adolph and Anna Mary Gronemeyer.

Adolph and Anna Mary Gronemeyer were also natives of Germany and there received their education in the public schools. They remained in the land of their nativity until their death some years ago. Adolph in early manhood learned the blacksmith trade and at this he worked for a number of years. He later gave up the work and engaged in farming, at which he continued until the time of his death, many years ago. After the death of her husband, Mrs. Gronemeyer married again, her second husband taking the name of Gronemeyer, with whom she lived until the time of her death in 1913.

Adolph and Anna Mary Gronemeyer were the parents of three children, the subject of this sketch being the only one of the family that ever came to the United States. The family were always active members of the German Lutheran church and were prominent in the social and religious life of the community in which they lived.

Fred Gronemeyer received his education in the public schools of Germany, and there grew to manhood. As a lad he learned the baker's trade, at which he worked while a resident of the land of his nativity and became very proficient in that line. In 1881, at the age of seventeen, he decided that he would come to America, where many of his neighbors and countrymen had located. On his arrival in this country, he came direct to Iowa and for a time located in Cedar county, where he was engaged as a farm hand. The new work on the farm pleased him and he gave satisfactory service. After a residence of two and one-half years in Cedar county, he came to Plymouth

county, where he engaged with C. Wolrod, for whom he worked for one year. He was then employed as farm hand by Nicoli Molsen, for whom he worked for one year, and then purchased eighty acres of land in section 14, Preston township. At the time he made the purchase there were some improvements on the place, and there he remained for two years, during which time he made many further improvements and did much in the way of development. He then traded the place for one hundred and sixty acres in section 22, his present home farm. At that time there were no improvements on the place and the farm was for the most part a wild prairie, which would require much hard work to develop. He built a small house and took up his residence on the farm, later building a small barn, fourteen by sixteen feet, and in these buildings he resided and housed his stock for some years. He engaged in general farming and stock raising, and was most successful. In time he built a more modern house, a barn thirty-six by sixty feet, an elevator for his grain, planted a fine grove and developed a most excellent orchard. His farm home today is one of the most substantial in the community and is situated in the midst of a beautiful grove, surrounded by a fine lawn, that is always well-kept and adds much beauty to the surroundings. His fields are well kept and his stock is of the best. As he prospered, he purchased more land and is today the owner of four hundred and eighty acres of land, all of which is under high cultivation and well improved. He is still actively engaged in the duties of the farm and operates all his large interests, with the exception of one hundred and sixty acres, that his son, Fred J., is now farming. Mr. Gronemeyer feeds all the grain he raises on the place and has one hundred head of fine Shorthorn cattle and some two hundred head of hogs.

In March, 1887, Fred Gronemeyer was united in marriage to Minnie Barinsky and to this union six children have been born, Fred J., George, John, Caroline, Willie and Arthur. Fred J. married Caroline Marinan and they are the parents of one child, Lyle. The other children are at home.

Fred and Minnie Gronemeyer are active members of the German Lutheran church and are prominent in all social and religious activities of the community. Mr. Gronemeyer is an independent voter and has always taken much interest in the civic life of the township. For twenty years he was trustee of the township and also served as school director and road supervisor. He always took much interest in the development of the schools and has always been most pronounced in advocating the best of roads.

PETER J. MORAN.

Peter J. Moran, a well-known and substantial young farmer of Elgin township and trustee of that township, was born on the farm on which he now lives, in section 7, and has lived there all his life. He is a son of Peter and Ellen (Neylan) Moran, the former a native of the state of Pennsylvania and the latter, of New York, pioneers of Plymouth county, where Peter Moran spent his last days and where his widow is still living.

Peter Moran was born in Pottsville, Pennsylvania, January 9, 1850, son of Peter Moran and wife, natives of Ireland, who came to the United States, settling at Pottsville, Pennsylvania, where they made their home until 1865, in which year they came to Iowa and settled at Elkader, where their last days were spent. The younger Peter Moran was fifteen years of age when he came to this state with his parents and he grew to manhood at Elkader. After his marriage in 1875 he came to Plymouth county and settled on a farm of eighty acres in section 7 of Elgin township, put up a small house thereon and there established his home and began to develop his farm. As he prospered he improved his place by erecting a comfortable house and good farm buildings and gradually increased his land holdings until he became the owner of a fine farm of two hundred and forty acres in this county and a farm of two hundred acres in Sioux county. He was one of the leading stockmen in that part of the county and raised many cattle and hogs. In his political affiliation Peter Moran was a Democrat and has served the public in the capacity of township trustee and as school director. His death occurred at his home in Elgin township on March 31, 1903, he then being past fifty-three years of age.

On March 7, 1875, Peter Moran was united in marriage, at Elkader, this state, to Ellen Neylan, who was born at Rochester, New York, daughter of Michael and Mary (Glenn) Neylan, both natives of County Clare, Ireland, who came to this country with their parents in the days of their youth, both families settling in Rochester, New York. In 1855 Michael Neylan and his family came to Iowa and settled on a farm in Clayton county and there he and his wife spent the remainder of their lives. Peter Moran was a member of the Catholic church, as his widow, and their children were reared in that faith. There were five of these children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the third in order of birth, the others being as follow: Mary E., who married William Nicholson, of Elgin township, a biographical sketch of whom is presented elsewhere in this volume; Frank, born in 1880, who died in 1898; John, who married Verna Kruse and is now living at Ellsworth, Minnesota,

and Nellie, who married Hugh McDonald and is now living at Hardington, Nebraska.

Peter J. Moran was reared on the old home place where he is still making his home and received his schooling in the district schools in the neighborhood of the same. From the days of his boyhood he was a valued assistant to his father in the work of developing and improving the home place and has always been a farmer and stockman. After his marriage in 1907 he established his home on the old home place and he and his family are there very pleasantly situated. Mr. Moran is a Democrat and has served as director of his local school district and is now serving the public in the important capacity of township trustee. He is a member of the Knights of Columbus and of the Elks Club at Le Mars, and takes a warm interest in the affairs of both of those organizations.

On October 2, 1907, Peter J. Moran was united in marriage to Annie Coffey, who also was born in this county, and to this union three children have been born, Marie, Robert and Helen. The Morans are members of St. Joseph's Catholic church at Struble and take a proper interest in parish affairs, as well as in the general social activities of the community in which they live, helpful in promoting all movements having to do with the advancement of the common welfare.

THOMAS J. PRATT.

Thomas J. Pratt, one of Union township's most substantial farmers and the owner of a half section of land in that township, is a native of the state of Wisconsin. He was born on a farm in that state on May 7, 1858, son of John and Elizabeth (Raw) Pratt, both of whom were born in England, but who had come to this country with their respective parents when they were children and had grown up in Wisconsin. John Pratt became a substantial farmer and he and his wife spent their last days on the farm of two hundred and forty acres they owned in that state. They were the parents of six children, of whom three are now living, those besides the subject of this sketch being James Pratt, of Kingsley, this county, and George Pratt, of Minnesota.

Reared on the home farm in Wisconsin, Thomas J. Pratt grew to manhood there, receiving his schooling in the public schools, and remained at home, a valued assistant to his father in the labors of the farm, until the time of his marriage in 1886, he then being twenty-eight years of age, after which

he rented a farm in that vicinity and began farming on his own account, remaining there until 1895, in which year he came to Iowa and located in Elkhorn township, this county, where he rented a farm for one year, at the end of which time he bought the farm on which he is now living. At first he bought but two hundred and forty acres, but he later bought an adjoining eighty and is now the owner of the full half section, which he brought under cultivation and which he has improved in excellent shape, having spent about five thousand dollars in improvements. In addition to his general farming, Mr. Pratt gives considerable attention to the raising of live stock, feeding a carload of hogs and a couple of carloads of cattle annually, and is doing very well in his operations. He is a Republican and has served the public in the capacity of supervisor of highways in his district and as a director of schools.

On September 19, 1896, Thomas J. Pratt was united in marriage to Mary Bainbridge and to this union five children have been born, William, Wesley, Alvin, Ernest and Velma. William Pratt married Hazel Begg and has three children. The Pratts are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and take an earnest interest in church affairs as well in the general concerns of the community in which they live, helpful in promotion all movements having to do with the welfare of the community.

GEORGE M. MOXEY.

Among the well-known and successful farmers and stock men of Perry township, Plymouth county, Iowa, may well be mentioned George M. Moxey, who was born at Mt. Vernon, Illinois, on October 30, 1859, and is the son of J. V. and Jennie (Bullock) Moxey. Adam Moxey, the paternal grandfather of the subject of this sketch, was a native of Indiana, where he was reared, becoming a farmer and a practicing physician at Mt. Vernon. The father, J. V. Moxey, received his education in the schools of Mt. Vernon and was reared on the farm three miles north of that city. There he married Jennie Bullock and to them were born the following children: Allie, George M., Cecil E., W. T., Viola, Stephen Kurels, John and Otto.

George M. Moxey was educated in the school at Mt. Vernon and remained a resident in that vicinity until he was twenty-two years of age, when, in 1881, he came with his father to Iowa and located in Cherokee county, where he remained for some years. He later came to Plymouth county, where, in 1888, he was united in marriage to Ella Fritz of Marcus. To this union five children have been born, as follow: Guy, Grace, Olive,

Pearl and Hugh. Guy is married to Ruth Hunt; Grace is the wife of Thomas Von Drok and Olive is the wife of John Kovarna.

On his arrival in Plymouth county, George M. Moxey, in 1900, purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land, where he now lives, in sections 14 and 15, at fifty dollars per acre. Here he has a most excellent farm, with splendid modern buildings, all of which has been erected by him. He practices mixed farming and stock raising, in which he has been successful, and is recognized as one of the substantial men of the county. In addition to his large interest on the farm, he is a stockholder in the Farmer's Mutual Co-operative store at Sioux City. He has always taken an active interest in local affairs and has had much to do with the general progress and advancement of the district, since he became a resident of the county. He is a most liberal supporter of religious institutions and has long been a member of the Methodist Episcopal church at Mt. Vernon, Illinois.

During his residence in this section of the county, Mr. Moxey has witnessed a most pronounced development in all lines of activities. At the time his father was taken over the district by Klohs Brothers, real estate dealers, he was offered the land where Kingsley is now situated for twenty-nine dollars per acre.

A. N. WILLIAMS.

A. N. Williams, a well-known farmer and landowner of Portland township, and former justice of peace in and for that township, was born on a farm in the vicinity of Batavia, in Jefferson county, this state, June 24, 1870, son of the Rev. John and Isabel (Hull) Williams, the former a native of the state of Ohio and the latter of New York, whose last days were spent in this state.

John Williams was bereaved by death of both of his parents in the days of his youth and he early was left to look out for himself. He was born in Marietta, Ohio, and, after working his way through the local schools of that city, entered the Rochester Theological Seminary with but twenty-five cents in his pocket and worked his way through that institution, graduating from the same with honor. He was then ordained to the ministry of the Baptist church and his first pastoral charge was in southeastern Iowa. For about thirty-five years the Rev. John Williams was engaged in the ministry in that part of the state, preaching in various charges. Meantime he had bought a farm of one hundred and twenty acres in the neighborhood of Batavia, in Jefferson county, where he established his home, continuing active in the ministry, however, and farmed there for about fifteen years. His wife died

in 1880 and in 1885 he disposed of his interests in Jefferson county and in the fall of that year came over to Plymouth county and bought a quarter of a section of land in Portland township, moving his family here in February of the following year. On that farm the Rev. John Williams spent the rest of his life, one of the most influential residents of that community. He and his sons made splendid improvements on the farm, the place early becoming recognized as one of the best-kept farms in the neighborhood. Though he held no regular pastorate in this county, the Rev. John Williams continued preaching more or less after coming here, until in his later years his voice gave way, practically compelling his retirement from the pulpit. After farming for five or six years in Portland township, he retired from the active labors of the farm and rented the place to his son, A. N. Williams, the subject of this sketch, who, after his father's death, bought the interests of the other heirs in the place and has ever since been operating the same, one of the most substantial farmers in that part of the county. The Rev. John Williams and his wife were the parents of six children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the third in order of birth, the others being as follow: N. J. Williams, born at Agency, this state, July 28, 1866, who for years was engaged in the milling business at Akron and at Le Mars, this county, and at Spencer and Sioux Falls in 1914, moving to Oswego county, New York, where he is now engaged in fruit farming; he married Clara Douglas in 1890 and has two children, Paul and Gertrude; W. D. Williams, now a rural mail carrier out of Akron, this county; Elsie, who died in her girlhood; Avis, also deceased, and L. D., who died at the age of six years, while the family was living at Batavia.

A. N. Williams was about sixteen years of age when he came to this county with his father in 1886 and he grew to manhood on the home farm in Portland township. When he reached his majority he rented the place from his father and after the latter's death, in 1900, bought the place, a well-improved farm of one hundred and sixty acres, and has ever since continued to make his home there. In addition to his general farming, Mr. Williams has long devoted considerable attention to the raising of high-grade live stock and has done very well. His fine herd of Aberdeen-Angus cattle is headed by a registered sire and a recent shipment made by him to Chicago brought the top of the market. He also does a good business in Duroc-Jersey hogs and is regarded as one of the leading stockmen in his neighborhood.

On October 10, 1893, A. N. Williams was united in marriage to Edna Callaghan, whose parents were early settlers in Plymouth county, and to this union one child has been born, a daughter, Elsie, born on January 3, 1896.

Mr. and Mrs. Williams are members of the Baptist church and have ever taken a warm interest in local church affairs. Mr. Williams is a past master of Freedom Lodge No. 434, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, and both he and Mrs. Williams are members of the local chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star, of which Mr. Williams is a past worthy patron and of which Mrs. Williams was for five years the secretary. In his political affiliations Mr. Williams is a Republican. He served as justice of the peace in and for his home township for one term and for twelve years was secretary of the local school board.

FRANK TAYLOR.

Frank Taylor, a well-known and progressive young farmer of Westfield township, was born on a farm in the vicinity of Merrill, April 30, 1883, son of James and Elizabeth (Cowan) Taylor, the former a native of England and the latter of Scotland, who were married in England and came to this country, proceeding to Iowa and settling in Plymouth county, where they spent the rest of their lives.

James Taylor grew up to the life of the farm in his native country and upon coming to the United States in 1881 decided to make his start in the New World on the broad prairies of Iowa. With this end in view, he came to Plymouth county, arriving at Le Mars in due time after landing on the shores of America, and presently located on a farm in the Merrill neighborhood. Not long afterward he bought that farm, but presently sold it and moved to Akron, where he worked for awhile for some English people who had settled there. Later he rented a farm in that vicinity and made his home on the same for six of seven years, at the end of which time he bought a partly-improved farm of two hundred and fifteen acres in sections 34 and 35 of Westfield township and there established his home, both he and his wife spending the remainder of their lives there. Mrs. Taylor died in 1904 and James Taylor survived until 1910. They were the parents of three children, the subject of this sketch having a brother, William J., now a rancher at Paxton, Nebraska, and a sister, Marian, who married Rufus H. Cilley, a farmer of Westfield township, a biographical sketch of whom is presented elsewhere in this volume.

Frank Taylor was reared on the home farm in Westfield township, receiving his schooling in the public schools of this county, and remained on the home place, a valued assistant to his father in the work of develop-

ing and improving the same. Some time after his marriage in 1907 he rented his father's farm and assumed the management of the same. Since the death of his father, he has continued to make his home on the place and is farming the undivided estate. In addition to his general farming, he is giving considerable attention to the raising of high-grade live stock and is doing very well in his operations. Mr. Taylor is a Democrat and gives proper attention to local political affairs, but has not been a seeker after office.

In April, 1907, Frank Taylor was united in marriage to Clara Breach and to this union two children have been born, Francis James and Violet. The Taylors have a pleasant home and Mr. and Mrs. Taylor take a proper interest in the general social activities of their community.

HENRY J. CALLAGHAN.

Among the early settlers of this county, long since deceased, mention ought to be made in this volume of Henry J. Callaghan, who was one of the pioneers of Liberty township and who died not long after getting his family well established in their new home on the prairie. Henry Callaghan was born in Illinois and in his early manhood was a school teacher in that state, farming during the summer months. Upon the outbreak of the Civil War he enlisted under the call for the hundred-day service in the One Hundred and Forty-first Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and served with that command under Generals Johnson and Hood. In his native state he married Bertha Birch, who was born in Canada, but who had commenced teaching school in Illinois in the days of her young womanhood, and in the early seventies came to Iowa with his wife, proceeding over to this part of the state and settling in Plymouth county. Here Henry Callaghan entered a claim to an eighty-acre homestead tract in Liberty township and started in to improve and develop the same, and was just getting a good start when he died in October, 1879, he then being thirty-six years of age. He left a widow and four children, the latter of whom were as follow: Jennie, deceased; Edna, who married A. N. Williams, a substantial farmer of Portland township, this county, a biographical sketch of whom is presented elsewhere in this volume, and Henry J. and Thomas, twins, the former of whom is a garage owner at Akron and the latter of whom died at the age of three years.

Shortly after her husband's death, Mrs. Bertha Callaghan moved with her children to Sioux City, where she presently married Alva Shedd, also a

Liberty township homesteader, and resumed her home in Liberty township. The Shedd's lived there until 1882, when they moved to Portland township, where Mr. Shedd bought a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in section 5 and there made his home until 1909, when he went to Alabama, hoping by a change of scene and air to benefit his failing health, and in that state shortly afterward died. His widow survived him but a few years, her death occurring in 1911. They were the parents of four children, namely: Lee Shedd, who is farming the old home place in Portland township; Ethel, who married Edward Spears, a carpenter at Akron, and Allie and Louis, the latter of whom died in youth.

THOMAS STINTON.

Thomas Stinton, president of the Akron Savings Bank and one of the best-known and most substantial retired pioneer farmers of Plymouth county, is a native of England, but has been a resident of Iowa since he was about five years old. He was born on November 11, 1847, son of Robert and Sarah (Pretty) Stinton, also natives of England, farming people, who came to the United States with their family in 1852 and settled in Jackson county, this state, where they established their home on a farm. There Robert Stinton lived for many years, or until he moved over to this part of the state and bought a farm of three hundred and twenty acres in Johnson township, this county, where he established a new home and where he died seven months later. His widow survived him but two years. Of their children, but two are now living in Plymouth county, the subject of this sketch having a sister, Alice, who married Edward Bradley and is now living at Akron.

Reared on the home farm, Thomas Stinton received his schooling in the schools of Jackson county and remained at home, a valued assistant to his father in the labors of the farm, until he was twenty-one years of age, when he started one "on his own hook" and for two or three years, or until his marriage, in 1871, was engaged in various forms of occupation, working on steamboats, on the railroad and in a packing house. In 1871, following his marriage, Mr. Stinton came to Plymouth county and homesteaded a tract of eighty acres of land in section 22 of Johnson township, where he established his home. There he built a board shanty, with sod walls and a shingle roof, and started in to develop his farm. He had a team of horses and a couple of cows and his early efforts at cultivating his homestead tract

were attended by the difficulties and hardships common to the pioneers of this section at that time; but he struggled through the grasshopper period and other forms of early trials and eventually began to see his way clear, presently erecting a comfortable house and farm buildings in keeping with the same. In addition to these improvements, he planted a fine grove of evergreens, from which the farm took its present appropriate name of "Evergreen Farm," and an orchard which developed into one of the best orchards in that part of the county. As he prospered in his farming operations, Mr. Stinton gradually enlarged his holdings until he became the owner of seven hundred and twenty acres and long ago came to be recognized as one of the most substantial and progressive farmers in this part of the state. About twenty-five years ago Mr. Stinton retired from the active labors of the farm, which he since has rented. His two sons are now farming three hundred and twenty acres and the remainder of the farm is rented to two other parties. In addition to his large farming interests Mr. Stinton has ever given his thoughtful attention to the general business affairs of his home community and twelve years ago was elected a director of the Akron Savings Bank, of which he previously had been a stockholder, and about nine years ago was elected president of that sound financial institution, a position he ever since has held, long having been regarded as one of the leading bankers in this part of the state. For one year Mr. and Mrs. Stinton made their home in Colorado, but were glad to return to Iowa. In 1908 they bought their present handsome residence in Akron and have ever since made their home there, being very pleasantly situated. Mr. Stinton is a Democrat and for many years served the public as trustee of Johnson township and for twenty-five years was treasurer of his local school district there.

In 1871, the year of his arrival in Plymouth county, Thomas Stinton was united in marriage to Josephine Brown and to this union three children have been born, namely: Ella, who, following her attendance at the normal school at Le Mars, taught for several years, married W. W. Burrill, a clothing merchant at Akron, and has two children, Lowell and Stanley; Walter, who is farming part of the old home place, married Lillian Hammond, and Ralph, who also is farming a part of the old home place, married Clara Bristo and has two children, Hazel and Lurene. Mr. Stinton is a member of the Masonic lodge at Akron and both he and his wife are members of the local chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star, in the affairs of which organization they take a warm interest, as well as in the general social activities of their home town.

. RUFUS H. CILLEY.

Rufus H. Cilley, one of Plymouth county's best-known and most progressive farmers and the owner of a fine farm of two hundred and forty acres in Westfield township, has been a resident of this county ever since he was twenty years old. He was born on a farm in the old granite-ribbed state of New Hampshire on March 29, 1869, son of George H. and Harriet (Clark) Cilley, the former a native of that same state and the latter of Massachusetts, who became pioneers of the western part of this county many years ago.

It was in 1881 that George H. Cilley and his family came to Iowa and settled in Plymouth county. He bought five hundred and fifty acres in section 35 of Westfield township, built a comfortable home on the place and lived there, improving the place, for four years, at the end of which time he sold it to advantage and bought a tract of two hundred and forty acres in section 34 of that same township, which he also proceeded to build up. He later took a homestead of a quarter of section in section 1 of Westfield township and there lived for seven years, or until his retirement from the farm and removed to Akron, where he spent the rest of his life, his death occurring on July 13, 1895, he then being past seventy years of age. His widow is still living and is now making her home at Long Beach, California. To George H. Cilley and wife were born five children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the fourth in order of birth, the others being as follow: Dr. Herbert Cilley, now retired from the active practice of his profession, who for twenty-five years was engaged in practice at Akron, married Lillian Boyd and has four children, George B., Emmet O., Chester C. and Herbert A.; Walter, deceased; Anna, widow of Samuel Visnow, of Akron, who has five children, Pearl L., Edward, Grace L., Fred and Maurice, and Forest, deceased.

Rufus H. Cilley was about twelve years of age when his parents came to this county and his common-school education, begun in the schools of his native state, New Hampshire, was completed in the schools of Plymouth county. Afterward he took a course in Highland Park College, and then began a preparatory course with a view to studying pharmacy, but, his health failing about that time, he abandoned that plan and decided to stick to the farm. At the age of twenty-one years he started out on his own account and rented the farm belonging to his father in section 34 of Westfield township, which became his own at his father's death by his purchase

of his sister's interest in the same, and is thus the owner of a fine place of two hundred and forty acres, on which he has made many valuable improvements and where he has done very well in his farming operations. Mr. Cilley is a Republican and for the past fifteen years has been serving the public in the capacity of township trustee. He also has served as a member of the school board for a like period and in other ways has contributed of his time and energies to the public service, ever helpful in advancing all good causes in the community in which he lives.

On December 20, 1895, Rufus H. Cilley was united in marriage to Marian Taylor, daughter of James and Elizabeth (Cowan) Taylor, the former a native of England and the latter of Scotland, who were married in England, came to this country and became early settlers in the neighborhood of Merrill, this county, later moving to a farm near Akron, where both spent their last days. James Taylor and his wife were the parents of three children, Mrs. Cilley having two brothers, William J. Taylor, now a rancher at Paxton, Nebraska, who married Emma Patterson and has seven children, and Frank Taylor, a farmer, of Westfield township, this county. To Mr. and Mrs. Cilley three children have been born, Edith M., Julius C. and Walter H. The Cilleys are members of the Congregational church and take a proper interest in the religious and social activities of the community in which they live, earnestly interested in all good works thereabout.

LUDWIG STAAB.

Ludwig Staab, a successful farmer and stockman of Meadow township, was born in Bavaria, Germany, on September 23, 1864, being the son of J. A. and Eva (Heilman) Staab. These parents were also natives of Bavaria and there received their education in the public schools, grew to manhood and womanhood and were later married. Mr. Staab engaged in the mercantile business, in connection with farming, in his native land, where he and his family lived until 1884, when they came to the United States. On their arrival in this country, they came direct to Iowa, where Mr. Staab purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in Meadow township, Plymouth county, the farm that is now owned by the son, Carl, of Remsen. After a few months in the county he returned to his native land, where he died in 1916, his wife having died in 1886. They were members of the Catholic church and always took much interest in all church work, and were prominent

in the society of their home community, where they were held in the highest regard and esteem by all who knew them. They were the parents of five children as follow: Carl, Paul, Ludwig, Peter and Aloyis. Carl is a resident of Remsen; Paul is engaged in farming in Meadow township and Peter and Aloyis are residents of Bavaria.

Ludwig Staab was educated in the schools of his native land and in the normal school at Le Mars. He came to the United States in 1881 and for three years worked as a farm hand in Woodford county, Illinois, and in 1884 he came to Plymouth county, Iowa. Here he located in Meadow township, where he rented land until 1890.

On July 7, 1891, Ludwig Staab was united in marriage to Rosen Kraus, who was born in Bavaria and is the daughter of Paul and Maria (Rothenbucker) Kraus. Mr. and Mrs. Kraus were also natives of Bavaria and there lived their lives, dying in that country some years ago. Mr. Staab returned to his native land, where he was married, after which he brought his bride to America in 1892, she being the only one of her family to come to the United States. On his return to Plymouth county, Mr. Staab and his young wife established their home on a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in section 20, Meadow township, which Mr. Staab had purchased. Here they erected a small house and barn and at once began the task of developing their wild prairie land. A grove and orchard was soon planted and some of the ground broken and seed planted. In time they began to prosper and more modern and substantial buildings were erected. Their land holdings were increased, and in addition to the home place they own three hundred acres in the county, after having sold a farm in Dixon county in 1916.

Ludwig and Rosena Staab are the parents of six children as follow: Emil, Paul, August, Ludwig, Odelia and Hedwig, all of whom are receiving their education in the local schools and the parochial institutions in the county. Mr. and Mrs. Staab are devout members of the Catholic church and have reared their children in the faith of the church. They take much interest in all the services of the church and are prominent in the social life of the community.

Mr. Staab is engaged in general farming and stock raising, in which he has been most successful. Starting with a fair sum of money, he has risen to a position of influence and is now recognized as one of the influential men of the township as well as the county. In addition to his general farm work, he has for many years devoted much attention to the breeding and raising of the best of Durham cattle, mixed hogs and draft horses, and on his place may be found some of the finest specimens of these animals. He

is a thorough believer in intensive farming and gives scientific care and attention to his stock. He has always taken much interest in local affairs and has served his township as school director for seven years and as trustee for a number of years. He is identified with the Democratic party and has done much for the general development of the district.

MIKE NEISINS.

Mike Neisins, for many years one of the successful and progressive farmers of Marion township, and now living a life of retirement at Remsen, was born in Germany on November 11, 1846, being the son of John and Annie (Pitch) Neisins, both of whom were natives of the province of Loraine. John and Annie Neisins were educated in the schools of their native country and there grew to manhood and womanhood and were married. Having spent their early life amid the pleasant scenes of their native country, it was with a feeling of regret that in 1852, they decided to come to America, where they might the better obtain a home for themselves and those dependent upon them. On their arrival in the United States, they at once proceeded to Wisconsin, locating in Racine county. There they purchased a farm, which they developed and improved and there the father engaged in general farming and stock raising until 1876, when Mrs. Neisins died, after which the father came to Plymouth county, Iowa, and here lived with his son, John, until the time of his death. John and Annie Neisins were devout members of the Catholic church and were held in the highest regard and esteem by all who knew them. They were the parents of nine children, six of whom are now living, as follow: Matthew, Henry, Mike, Mary, John and Kate.

Mike Neisins received his education in the schools of Wisconsin and grew to manhood on the home farm, where he assisted with the farm work until he was nineteen years of age, at which time he sought employment in the pineries in Michigan, where he worked for some time. He later worked in Illinois, Indiana, Nebraska and South Dakota. In 1872 he came to Plymouth county and purchased a farm of one hundred and twenty acres, at seven dollars per acre, in section 23, Marion township. He at once built a small house and began the task of breaking the tough prairie sod, preparatory to the planting of the grain. Here he and his brother, Matthew, lived by themselves for about eight years.

In 1884 Mike Neisins was united in marriage to Anna Kruse and to this union the following children have been born: Susan, Anna, John, Kate, Emma and Frank. Susan is the wife of John Watkin; Anna married Anton Paskert and is the mother of two children, Henry and Adeline; Kate married Ben Frank, and Emma is the wife of Vernon Wood. Mr. and Mrs. Neisins are devout members of the Catholic church and are prominent in the social life of the community. Before his retirement to Remsen, Mr. Neisins was for seventeen years trustee of his home township and served as a member of the school board. He is an independent Democrat and has for many years been one of the prominent men of the county.

FRANK WENGLER.

Frank Wengler, a well known and successful contractor of Remsen, Plymouth county, Iowa, was born at Aurora, Illinois, on November 3, 1861, and is the son of William and Catherine Wengler. William and Catherine Wengler were born in Luxemburg and there received their education in the public schools, grew to manhood and womanhood and were married. William Wengler learned the stone-mason's trade, at which he worked in his native land for some years. In 1853 he decided that he would seek a home in America, and on his arrival in this country he located at Aurora, Illinois, where he worked at his trade for some years. He later engaged in general farming and is still engaged in that work. He and his wife are the parents of ten children, six of whom are now living as follow: Catherine, Margaret, Frank, Matthew, John and Katherine.

Frank Wengler received his education in the schools of Illinois and there grew to manhood. On leaving school, he engaged in farm work with his father for five years, after which he worked in the flour-mill at Aurora until 1882, when he came to Iowa. He located at Le Mars, and engaged in carpenter work for two years. He later came to Remsen and continued his work as a carpenter for some time, when, fourteen years ago, he formed a partnership with Nick Ernster, and they are still associated in business.

On September 30, 1890, Frank Wengler was united in marriage to Minnie Lilly, the daughter of Joseph Lilly and wife, well-known residents of the district. To this union one child has been born, Geneviva, who is now the wife of Frank Alman and they are the parents of one child, Le Roy. Mr. and Mrs. Wengler are devout members of the Catholic church at Remsen

and have ever taken much interest in church work. They are prominent in the social life of the community and are held in the highest regard and esteem by all who know them. Mr. Wengler is an active member of the Catholic Order of Foresters and is a man of much influence in the community. He is identified with the Democratic party and has long been a leader in that organization. For ten years he served his township as trustee, and was for ten years a justice of the peace and for four years a director of the school district.

DEWITT CLINTON CLARKE.

In the memorial annals of LeMars and of Plymouth county there are few names held in better remembrance than that of the late DeWitt Clinton Clarke, for years one of the most prominent merchants and business men at LeMars and an active factor in the development of that city in pioneer days. One of the first merchants to become established in LeMars, Mr. Clarke gave his most earnest attention to the affairs of that city during the more than a quarter of a century in which he was in business there and it is undoubted that his well-directed influence had much to do with the development of the city in the early days of the county seat. Mr. Clarke was an honored veteran of the Civil War and was one of the leaders in the community life of the county seat of Plymouth county from the very beginning of his residence here back in 1871.

DeWitt Clinton Clarke was born at Elbridge, New York, July 19, 1829, a descendant of William Clarke, who came to America from England in 1636. One of his later forbears was united in marriage by the Rev. Jonathan Edwards. Mr. Clarke was a fine singer and during his younger days was much sought after at musical entertainments in the East, having been one of the singers at the first benefit given in New York City to Joseph Jefferson and Mary Drew. In his young manhood Mr. Clarke went to Michigan and was living at Battle Creek when the Civil War broke out. He enlisted with Merrill's Horse in that city and was later attached to Company L, Missouri Volunteer Cavalry, serving with that command as commissary sergeant during the last three years of the war. Some years previously, at Battle Creek, Mr. Clarke had married and there made his home until 1871, when, with the opening of the railroad into Plymouth county, he came out to this part of Iowa and settled at Le Mars, arriving there in February of that year, and there he spent the rest of his life, the house which he erected there shortly after



DEWITT CLARKE



SARAH LACK CLARKE

his arrival being still occupied by his children, after a lapse of more than forty years.

Upon locating at Le Mars, Mr. Clarke engaged in the hardware and agricultural-implement business in the new town and as the town grew so did his business expand until he presently became a substantial and well-to-do merchant. During the days of the grasshopper plague he suffered in his affairs, as did all the pioneers of this section of Iowa, but he had the courage and the foresight to "stick to the job" and it was not long until he was prospering. Mr. Clarke was a life-long Democrat and ever gave a good citizen's attention to political affairs, but was never a seeker after public office. He and his wife were members of the Episcopal church and were among the leaders in good works in that community during the early days, ever helpful in promoting all movements having to do with the general welfare of the community and the advancement of social and cultural conditions hereabout. Mr. Clarke was an ardent member of the Masonic fraternity, a member of Giblem Lodge No. 322 and of Occidental Chapter No. 114, Royal Arch Masons, at LeMars, and was worshipful master of Giblem lodge for the year 1875.

On December 23, 1856, at Battle Creek, Michigan, DeWitt C. Clarke was united in marriage to Sarah Lack, now also deceased, who was born in Northhamptonshire, England, May 25, 1826, daughter of William and Charlotte (Pick) Lack, also natives of England, and to this union two daughters were born, Frances Charlotte, who married C. K. Huntington, and Mary Caroline, who married Birney C. Woolley, and both of whom are still living in the old Clarke home in LeMars, the family residence for more than forty years. Mr. Clarke died at his home in LeMars on May 29, 1899.

PHILIP HAYDEN.

Philip Hayden, one of the best-known and most substantial farmers of Union township, this county, is a native of the neighboring state of Wisconsin, but has been a resident of Plymouth county since the days of his young manhood. He was born on a farm in Grant county, Wisconsin, August 29, 1869, son of John and Catherine (Campbell) Hayden, natives of Ireland, who were married in Grant county, Wisconsin. There John Hayden bought a small farm and there he spent the rest of his life. He and his wife were the parents of five children, but two of whom are now living, the subject of this sketch having a sister, Mrs. Mary Langton.

Reared on the home farm in Wisconsin, Philip Hayden received his education in the neighborhood school. As a young man, he came to Plymouth county and began working on a farm northwest of Le Mars and fourteen years later rented a farm and began farming on his own account. Shortly afterward he bought a farm in Preston township and there made his home until 1906, when he bought a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in section 7 of Union township, where he ever since has made his home and where he and his family are very comfortably and very pleasantly situated. Mr. Hayden improved his farm and as he prospered in his operations, bought additional land until now he is the owner of two hundred and forty acres, though to this tract he only gives his personal attention to eighty acres, renting the remainder of the place.

In February, 1900, Philip Hayden was united in marriage to Laura McAuliff, who was born in Green county, Wisconsin, daughter of William and Jane (Lewis) McAuliff, the former a native of Ireland and the latter of Norway, who were married in Wisconsin and who became pioneers of Plymouth county. William McAuliff was but a lad when he came to this country with his parents, the family locating in Chicago, where his father was for some time employed as a cooper, but later moved to Green county, Wisconsin, settling there on a farm, and it was in that county that William McAuliff was living when the Civil War broke out. He enlisted in Company K, Sixth Regiment, Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, and, with that command, participated in some of the most hotly-contested battles of the war, including the battles of Shiloh, second Bull Run, Antietam, Gettysburg and Vicksburg. Upon the completion of his military service, he returned to Wisconsin and in 1871 came to Iowa with his family, settling on a quarter-section homestead in section 24 of Preston township, this county. Upon locating there Mr. McAuliff put up a "shack," which served as an abode for himself and family until he later could erect a small frame house, sixteen by twenty, the first frame house erected in Preston township. He endured the ill fortune that seemed to be the common lot of most of the early settlers of this county, but persevered in his operations and presently began to prosper. As he prospered he enlarged his land holdings until he became the owner of five hundred and eighty acres of fine land and was long looked upon as one of the leading farmers in that part of the county. On that pioneer farm William McAuliff spent the rest of his life, his death occurring on December 11, 1902. His widow survived him for almost ten years, her death occurring on December 8, 1912. They were the parents of four children, Mrs. Hayden having three brothers, William, George and Wesley.

Mr. and Mrs. Hayden have one child, a son, Philip Hayden, Jr. Mrs. Hayden is a member of the Presbyterian church. Mr. Hayden is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America and in the affairs of that organization takes a warm interest. He has ever had the welfare of his home community at heart and has been helpful in advancing various movements of common benefit to the community.

P. N. HANSEN.

P. N. Hansen, a well-known and substantial retired farmer of the neighboring county of Sioux, now living retired in the city of Remsen, this county, is a native of Germany, but has been a resident of this country since the days of his young manhood. He was born in the province of Schleswig-Holstein on December 26, 1847, son of Peter and Anna Hansen, both natives of that same province, who came to the United States in 1878, some years after their sons had come here, and located in Benton county, this state, where they remained for six years, at the end of which time they sold the farm they had bought there and came to Plymouth county, where they spent the remainder of their lives, the mother dying in 1891 and the father surviving until 1906, his death occurring at the home of his daughter. They were the parents of six children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the third in order of birth, the others being Henry, Christian, Mat, Mrs. Mary Tonsfeldt and William.

Reared on a farm in his native land, P. N. Hansen received his education in the local schools there and when twenty-three years of age, following the completion of his enforced military service of three years, he came to the United States with one of his elder brothers and settled near Davenport, this state, where he began working as a farm hand. Two years later he moved to Benton county and rented a farm. He was married there and there made his home for eight years, at the end of which time, in 1883, he came over to this part of the state and bought a quarter of a section of land in Sioux county, paying for the same eleven dollars an acre. He improved that farm and five years later sold it to advantage and bought three hundred and twenty acres in the same vicinity, gradually enlarging his land holdings from time to time until he became the owner of eight hundred and forty acres in Sioux county and over the river in South Dakota. In 1906 Mr. Hansen retired from the active labors of the farm and moved to Remsen, where he and

his wife are now living and where they are very comfortably situated. Mr. Hansen is a Republican of the old school and ever since coming to this state has given his thoughtful and earnest attention to local political affairs. During his residence in Sioux county he served as trustee of his home township for fifteen years and in other ways contributed of his time and his energies to the public service.

In 1875, in Benton county, this state, P. N. Hansen was united in marriage to Mary Petersen, a daughter of Lorenz and Margaret Petersen, and to this union three children have been born, namely: Anna, who is deceased; George P., who married Minnie Horn and has three children, Ralph, Evelyn and Lester, and August, who married Lucy Schumacher and has one child, a daughter, Ellen. Mr. and Mrs. Hansen are members of St. Paul's German Evangelical Lutheran church at Remsen, in the various beneficences which they take an earnest interest, and Mr. Hansen is now the president of the congregation. He takes an active interest in the general affairs of the community and has been helpful in many ways in promoting movements designed to advance the common welfare, displaying his public spirit on all important occasions.

JOHN HEISSEL.

John Heissel, one of the most substantial farmers of America township, owner of the old brewery place north of the city of Le Mars, where he now makes his home, and the owner of much valuable land besides in that same township, is a native of Germany, but has been a resident of this country since he was fifteen years of age. He was born in Hohenzollern, a detached province of the kingdom of Prussia, the chief state of the German empire, April 2, 1856, son of Matthew and Rosella (Sauter) Heissel, also natives of Hohenzollern, the former of whom was a linen weaver and who spent all their lives in their native country, the latter dying in 1857 and the former in 1877. They were the parents of five children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the last-born, the others being as follows; Joseph, who is the owner of an oil factory in Germany; Petronilla, who is still living in her native land; Catherine, who also continues to make her home in Germany, and the late Fidel Heissel, who came to this country in 1868 and later settled in Plymouth county, where he died on March 14, 1912, further details of whose life in this county are set out in a memorial sketch relating to him presented elsewhere in this volume.

At the age of fifteen years, John Heissel left his native land and came to the United States, proceeding straightway on out to the Northwest and locating in Wisconsin, where he worked in the pineries north of Wausau during the first winter of his residence in this country. He then began working in a saw-mill at Knowlton, in that same state, and was thus engaged for about seven years, or until his marriage in the spring of 1878, when he came over into Iowa and located on a farm in Buena Vista county, where he remained for eight years. At the end of that time he returned to Wisconsin, locating at Halder, where for five years he was engaged in operating a saw-mill and conducting a general store, at the same time serving as postmaster of the place. He then disposed of his interests at that place and returned to Buena Vista county, where he remained a couple of years, at the end of which time, in 1893, he came to Plymouth county and bought the old Hackett & Heines farm of one hundred and sixty acres in section 3 of America township. In 1906 he bought the old brewery place, where he now lives, and in 1909 bought the Blodgett place of eighty acres in section 11 and an additional thirty acres adjoining his home place. For the past ten years Mr. Heissel has had charge of the road work in the district in which he lives and his efforts in the direction of better roads have been fruitful of excellent results. He votes the Democratic ticket and for many years served as secretary and director of the school in his district. The Heissels have a very pleasant home and are quite comfortably situated.

On March 30, 1878, John Heissel was united in marriage to Josephine Halder, who was born at Wausau, Wisconsin, daughter of George and Teckla (Dorn) Halder, natives of Germany, the former born in Wittenberg and the latter in Baden. These parents came to the United States in the days of their youth and were married at Rochester, New York, later moving to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, whence they came West and located in Marathon county, Wisconsin, making their home at Stevens Point and later at Wausau, where George Halder was for some years engaged in the mercantile business. He was an active, energetic man of affairs and the town and postoffice of Halder, Wisconsin, was named for him. He died at Sharon, Wisconsin, in 1874 and his widow survived him but a year, her death occurring in 1875. They were the parents of six children, those besides Mrs. Heissel, who was the third in order of birth, being as follow: Margaret, of Wausau, Wisconsin; Frank, of Laurens, this state; Helen, deceased; Anna, of Wausau, Wisconsin, and James, of Darby, Montana.

To Mr. and Mrs. Heissel six children have been born, namely: Anna, who married Frank Stoffel, of Union township, this county, and has four

children, Alexander, Louisa, Edgar and Edmond; Josephine, who married John Bortscheler, a farmer of Marion township, this county, a biographical sketch of whom is presented elsewhere in this volume; Alois, a druggist at Omaha, Nebraska; Frances, who married J. C. Mayrose, of America township, and has five children, Roman, Sabina, Mercedes, Cyril and Clotilda; Clara, who married Joseph Burkard, of Elgin township, and Gertrude, now Sister Josephus, in the convent at Willamette, Illinois. The Heissels are members of St. Joseph's Catholic church at Le Mars and for years have taken an active interest in parish affairs, as well as in all neighborhood good works, ever helpful in promoting all agencies designed to advance the common welfare.

NICK ERNSTER.

Nick Ernster, a well-known and successful contracting carpenter and builder at Remsen, head of the firm of Ernster & Wengler, building contractors in that city, is a native son of this state and has lived here all his life. He was born on a farm near the city of Dubuque on March 31, 1862, son of Nick and Catherine Ernster, the former of whom was born in the grand duchy of Luxemburg and the latter in the neighboring kingdom of Belgium, who came to this country with their respective parents in the days of their youth and were married in Dubuque county, this state, where the two families had located upon coming to America. The elder Nick Ernster became a well-to-do farmer in Dubuque county and there spent his last days. He and his wife were the parents of four children, of whom three are still living, the subject of this sketch having a brother, Peter, and a sister, Mary.

Reared on the home farm in Dubuque county, the younger Nick Ernster received his schooling in the schools of that neighborhood and from boyhood was a valued assistant to his father in the labors of developing and improving the farm. When twenty-one years of age he began working as a carpenter and in due time became a building contractor in the city of Dubuque, where he remained thus engaged for twelve years, at the end of which time, in 1904, he came over to this part of the state and engaged in the same business at Remsen, in partnership with Frank Wengler, under the firm name of Ernster & Wengler, and has ever since been thus engaged, the firm having erected many of the best dwellings and other buildings in and about Remsen since entering business there. Mr. Ernster is a Democrat and takes a good

citizen's interest in general political affairs, but has not been a seeker after public office.

In 1889 Nick Ernster was united in marriage to Mary Delperding, who was born at Spring Brook, in Jackson county, this state, and whose parents, natives of Belgium, had come to this country shortly after their marriage and had settled in Jackson county, this state, where they lived until 1872, when they came over to Plymouth county and settled in Fredonia township. There Mr. Delperding bought a quarter of a section of land and established his home, continuing engaged in active farming until his retirement in 1886, though he continued to make his home on the farm and there spent his last days. Mr. Delperding was a progressive farmer and gradually increased his land holdings until he became the owner of a fine farm of three hundred and twenty acres. He and his wife were the parents of seven children, six of whom are still living, those besides Mrs. Ernster being Mrs. Elizabeth Ginsbach, Nick, Anton, Mrs. Margaret Schiltz and Mrs. Catherine Gaul. To Mr. and Mrs. Ernster two children have been born, Josephine and Arthur, the former of whom married Ben Mayrose and has three children, Cleatus, Cynthia and Bernice. The Ernsters are members of the Catholic church and take a proper and helpful interest in parish affairs. Mr. Ernster is a member of the Catholic Mutual Protective Society and of the Catholic Order of Foresters and takes a warm interest in the affairs of these organizations.

HENRY BAUNE.

Henry Baune, one of Remsen township's well-known and substantial farmers, is a native of Germany, but has been a resident of this country since 1880. He was born in the grand duchy of Oldenburg on September 8, 1864, son of August and Dena Baune, who also were born in Oldenburg and who remained there, the father being there engaged as a carpenter, until 1880, in which year they came with their family to the United States and settled in Delaware county, this state. There August Baune rented a farm on which he established his home and there spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring in 1889. His widow is now living with her son, Charles Baune, in Sioux county. August Baune and wife were the parents of nine children, four of whom are still living, but only one of whom, the subject of this sketch, is a resident of Plymouth county.

Reared in his native land, Henry Baune remained there until 1880,

when he accompanied his parents and the other members of the family to this country and engaged with his father in farming in Delaware county, this state, continuing thus engaged until the time of his father's death in 1889. The next year he married and in the spring of the following year, on March 1, 1891, came over to Plymouth county and rented a farm west of Remsen, where he made his home for seven years, at the end of which time he bought a tract of eighty acres, to which he later added an adjoining tract of forty acres and has since then made his home on that place, he and his family being very comfortably situated there. In addition to his own farm of one hundred and twenty acres, Mr. Baune rents an adjoining tract of one hundred and twenty acres and is conducting his farming operations along progressive and up-to-date lines and is doing very well.

In 1890 Henry Baune was united in marriage to Elizabeth Schultz, daughter of Henry Schultz and wife, and to this union nine children have been born, six of whom are now living, namely: Edward, who married Anna Fredericks, and Aloysius, Lawrence, Raymond, Gregory and Clarence. The Baunes are members of the Catholic church at Remsen and take an earnest interest in parish affairs, as well as in the general social activities of the community in which they live, and are helpful factors in furthering all good causes in that part of the county. Mr. Baune is a Democrat and gives a good citizen's attention to local civic affairs, but has not been a seeker after public office.

JULIUS MATHWIG.

Agriculture has been the true source of man's dominion on earth ever since the primal existence of labor and has been the principal industry that has controlled for the most part all the fields of action to which his intelligence and energy have been devoted. In all civilized communities no calling is so certain of yielding a sure return as that of tilling the soil. There are times when the husbandman is sorely taxed in coaxing from Mother Earth all that he desires or even expects, yet she is kind and seldom fails the one who shows diligence in his task and proper management. Among the successful agriculturists who have assisted in the making Plymouth county, Iowa, one of the noted farming districts of the great middle West, was Julius Mathwig, now deceased. He was born in Germany, where agriculture is a science, in 1850, and came to the United States at the age of six years, with his parents, Gotleib and Minnie Mathwig, who located in Lincoln township, where they

were among the early settlers. They established themselves on a farm, and there the son Julius grew to maturity. He assisted his father with the many farm duties and worked as a farm hand for others in the neighborhood.

In 1881 Julius Mathwig was united in marriage to Mary Wetrosky, the daughter of John and Anna Wetrosky, who were natives of Bohemia. In that country the parents received their educational training and there they were married and established their home. The father was a man whose asthetic side of life was highly developed, and he was a well known musician and a leader of many highly developed bands. He was a successful mason, at which he worked in his native land. In 1874 he and his family came to the United States, locating in Lincoln township, Plymouth county. He purchased a farm, but for a number of years he devoted much of his time to his trade. The farm was later developed and improved with a splendid frame house and good barn. This place he made his home until the time of his death, on February 15, 1912. The widow is still living on the old home place. They were the parents of the following children: Mary, the widow of Julius Mathwig and a native of Bohemia; Anna, the wife of J. J. Aalfs; Josie, the wife of Gustaf Long; Joseph, who married Mary Munsch, and John, who married Ida Dahlmann.

Some years before his marriage, Julius Mathwig purchased a farm of eighty acres in Lincoln township, and there he and his wife began their early married life and there they resided for eight years. The farm was then sold and they went to South Dakota, where Mr. Mathwig pre-empted one hundred and sixty acres of wild prairie land. After a residence of nine years the family left their home in South Dakota and moved to Nebraska, where they lived on a rented tract for two years, when they returned to Plymouth county. A farm of three hundred and twenty acres was purchased in section 19, Liberty township. The farm had been partially developed and there were an old house and barn on the place. The German instinct of Mr. Mathwig did not long allow him to leave the farm in an inferior condition. Fences were built and repaired, groves planted, and in 1911 the magnificent concrete block barn was erected, while two years later the splendid modern house was built, this also being of concrete blocks and a fine structure. The farm, with the splendid buildings and beautiful surroundings, presents a most pleasing sight and is indicative of the thrift, economy and good management of the builders of so fine an estate. It was here that Mr. Mathwig engaged in general farming and stock raising until the time of his death, on December 1, 1915.

Julius and Mary Mathwig were the happy parents of six children as fol-

low: Tillie, Otto, George, John, Frank and Anna. Tillie is the wife of Thomas Waddle, one of the successful and prominent young farmers of Liberty township. Mr. and Mrs. Waddle are the parents of one child, Raymond Lowell; John was drowned in 1908 in Broken Kettle creek; the other children of the family are at home and under the wise supervision of the mother.

JAMES N. McDougall.

One of the well-known and successful farmers and stockmen of Grant township, is James N. McDougall, who was born at Mineral Point, Wisconsin, on October 30, 1848, being the son of James and Adeline (Howard) McDougall. These parents were natives of Scotland and the state of New York respectively, and received their education in the local schools of their home communities. Amid the beautiful scenery of the highlands of that far-away country, James McDougall spent the first sixteen years of his life. He then came to America and for a time located in Canada. He then came to the United States and located in the southern portion of the country, where he remained for a time before coming to Illinois. After locating in La Salle county, Illinois, he worked at the carpenter trade for some years, when, in 1848, he moved to Iowa and located at Mineral Point, where he followed his trade. He then moved to Grant county, Wisconsin, where he and his family established their home on a farm and there remained until 1870, when they came to Iowa. Here Mr. McDougall obtained the farm where the son, James N., now lives. On coming to Iowa, Mr. McDougall and his son, Alex, made the journey with horses and wagon from their home in Wisconsin to their new home in Plymouth county. On their arrival here Mr. McDougall purchased a farm, which he later improved and developed, and here he engaged in general farming and stock raising until the time of his death, at the age of seventy-six years. His widow died some years later, at the age of eighty-five years. Mr. McDougall was a member of the Presbyterian church, in which he had been reared from childhood and his wife was an active member of the Methodist Episcopal church. They were both well known throughout the county and were held in the highest regard and esteem by all who knew them.

James and Adeline McDougall were the parents of the following children: Alex, Harriett, Mary, James, Sarah and John. Harriett, now deceased, was the wife of Stewart Craig, and was a woman who did much in

the way of the moral and social development of the community and at her death was mourned by many of the residents of the district; Mary is the wife of Thomas Edwards and lives at Ireton, Iowa; and Sarah, who was the wife of James Andrews, of Ogden, Iowa, was a woman universally loved and esteemed by all. James McDougall and wife were among the early settlers of the county and experienced many of the hardships of the early days on the undeveloped and unsettled plains. They had much to do with the establishment of the early schools and the organization of the first churches. They were ever much interested in the educational problems of the district and through their efforts schools and churches were established.

James N. McDougall received his education in the schools of Wisconsin and, on reaching manhood, worked in the lead mines and farmed with his father. In 1870 he, with his father's family, came to Iowa, with horses and wagon, requiring thirteen days to make the trip. The trip was a lonely one, for there was but one cabin between Cherokee and Le Mars, where they landed on October 1, 1870. On their arrival in Plymouth county, James N. McDougall pre-empted one hundred and sixty acres of land, which he has since increased to two hundred and forty acres, and still lives on the farm where he has lived for over forty-five years. On his arrival in the township there were but few residents in the county and today he and his brother, Alex, are the oldest living residents of this part of the county. His first residence was a cabin, twelve by twelve feet in size, in which he lived for some years. Since that time he has expended many thousands of dollars in substantial improvements and now has one of the finest farms in the township. The first corn he planted on the place was a twenty-acre tract, which he dropped in the furrow as he plowed and which produced for him twenty bushels per acre. He now raises one hundred acres of corn and one hundred and twenty acres of small grain. Each year he turns into the markets one hundred head of good hogs and two car loads of the finest of cattle.

In 1881 James N. McDougall was united in marriage to Martha Warren and to this union six children have been born, five of whom are now living, as follow: Mary, Hattie, Pearl, John and Chester. Hattie is the wife of Frank Leshner and Pearl is the wife of Henry Barkel.

Coming to the county, as he did, in the early days, when the unbroken prairie was for the most part one stretch of unbroken grass, with no houses or groves to mar the view, Mr. McDougall has seen the transition of this unbroken waste to well-developed farms, improved with the best of buildings, surrounded by fields of golden grain and protected by well established groves of the finest of trees. Today, where then was only the prairie trail to

guide the weary traveler, we find well-built roads, over which the residents travel in their automobiles instead of making their weary journey to market with the slow-plodding oxen or the horse. At that time there were few, if any, schools and churches, but today we find modern schools and beautiful churches, where the children can receive an education equal to that in the cities and the people can worship in beautiful structures, dedicated to the Great God of the universe. These great advances have only been made possible by the sacrifices and hardships of such men as Mr. McDougall, who have devoted their lives to the development and improvement of the district in which they have lived for so many years. It is to them that the world owes a debt of gratitude that can never be repaid.

J. P. LUDWIG.

J. P. Ludwig, one of Plymouth county's most progressive young farmers and the proprietor of a fine farm of two hundred and forty acres in Remsen township, is a native of Germany, but has been a resident of Iowa since he was eleven years of age. He was born in the grand duchy of Luxemburg on May 12, 1883, son of Theodore and Margaret (Hennes) Ludwig, also natives of Luxemburg, who came to this country with their family and settled in the neighborhood of Dyersville, this state. They remained there engaged in farming until their retirement from the farm, twelve years later, and removal to Remsen, where their last days were spent, Theodore Ludwig dying on December 2, 1912, at the age of seventy-six years his widow survived him less than a year, her death occurring in 1913, at the age of sixty-eight. They were members of St. Mary's Catholic church at Remsen and their children were reared in that faith. There were twelve of these children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the fourth in order of birth, the others being as follow: Peter, who is a farmer in Dubuque county, this state; Cornelius, a farmer and stockman at Remsen; John, a farmer of Remsen township, further mention of whom is made in a biographical sketch presented elsewhere in this volume; Martin, who is farming in Meadow township, this county; Frank, who is farming two miles north of Oyens; Michael, a farmer of Marion township; Mrs. Margaret Beelner, who died in 1912; Mrs. Barbara Bonert, of Dubuque county, this state; Mrs. Anna Less, also of Dubuque county; Mrs. Catherine Tentinger, of Marion township, this county, and Mrs. Mary Tentinger, of Fredonia township.

J. P. Ludwig was about eleven years of age when his parents came to Iowa with their family and his schooling was completed in the schools of Dyersville. He was reared to the life of a farm and after starting to work on his own account was engaged in farming in the Dyersville neighborhood for ten years, at the end of which time he came to Plymouth county and rented a farm in Fredonia township, where he made his home until 1914, when he moved onto his present farm of two hundred and forty acres in Remsen township, where he and his family are now very comfortably and very pleasantly situated. In addition to the farm he owns in Remsen township, Mr. Ludwig also has a farm in South Dakota. While he was renting he and his brother Frank had three hundred acres in this county and also land in South Dakota. Mr. Ludwig bought his present home farm in 1913 and the same is well improved. He gives considerable attention to the raising of Shorthorn cattle and Duroc-Jersey hogs, feeding two or three carloads of the former and about one hundred and seventy-five head of the latter annually. His farming is carried on along modern lines and his farm plant is regarded as one of the best in that part of the county. Mr. Ludwig is a Democrat and has served his district in the capacity of superintendent of highway construction.

In 1907 J. P. Ludwig was united in marriage to Mary Bohnenkamp, daughter of Frank and Mary Bohnenkamp, of this county, further mention of whom is made elsewhere in this volume, and to this union six children have been born, Frances, Raymond, Veronica, Syrilla, Myra and Armilla. The Ludwigs are members of the Catholic church at Remsen and give proper attention to parish affairs and general social movements.

PHILIP SCHNEIDER.

Philip Schneider, a well-known and successful farmer of Hungerford township, Plymouth county, Iowa, was born in that township and is the son of John and Katherine (Winter) Schneider. John Schneider, the oldest living resident of Plymouth county and one of the most extensive land holders, was born in Germany, where he received his education in the schools of the Empire and there grew to manhood. He was born on September 29, 1831, and was the son of Detrich and Elizabeth (Reuter) Schneider, both of whom were natives of Germany, the former a son of Philip Schneider, a farmer

and a veteran of the war with Russia in 1813, and the latter a daughter of John Reuter and wife.

Detrich Schneider was born in 1800 and died on May 2, 1840, leaving a widow and six children. On May 8, 1853, the widow, with her children, left their native land for America, where they might establish a home for themselves. On their arrival in the port of New York, in September of that year, they located near the city of Albany, that state, where they remained for a year or two. They then came to Illinois and located in Olga county, where they made their home on a farm. After a residence of one year, John Schneider, the eldest son, came to Iowa and for a time lived at Dubuque. On March 16, 1856, he, with three other young men of German birth, started to walk to Plymouth county. On their arrival here, John Schneider pre-empted a tract of one hundred and seventy-eight acres in what afterward became section 4. Hungerford township, Plymouth county, though neither the county nor the township had been organized at that time. On July 3, of that year, his mother and the other children of the family joined him. It was here that the mother, with her children, Philip, Mary, Daniel, Jacob, Henry and John, established their home on the wild prairie. The journey of Mrs. Schneider and her children from Olga county, Illinois, to Plymouth county was made with horses and wagon and they were five weeks in making the journey. On their arrival here, Philip took advantage of the pre-emption act and the other brothers, when they reached their majority, took homesteads, and thus the family became well established as land owners. The family were the very first settlers in this part of the state. John Schneider, being one of the real pioneers of the county, took an active part in the organization of the township and the county and served in various of the township and county offices, including four terms as county commissioner. During the Civil War he was drafted, but it was impossible for him to answer the call personally and he sent a substitute.

As he began to prosper in his work as a farmer and stock man, John Schneider invested in more land and is today the owner of eleven hundred and seventy-two acres of land in the county. He is still living on the farm that he pre-empted some sixty years ago. He has seen the wild prairie developed into the finest of farms and improved with substantial and modern homes. Where once grew the wild prairie grass and shrubs, now grow fields of wheat, corn and oats. On the pasture land we find large herds of the finest of cattle and many horses and hogs. Villages and cities have been developed where once was nothing but the wide expanse of prairie land. Roads have been built where once the pioneer wended his way through the

tall grass and the underbrush. The modern school house of today has replaced the vacant lot, or the log or sod house, wherein the children of those early days received their first educational training. To these early pioneers, who made possible these great developments, the present civilization of Plymouth county owes much that can never be repaid. For the past twenty years Mr. Schneider has lived a retired life and has been able to enjoy the results of his many years of hard work and privations. His son, Philip, is today the active manager of his large estate and gives it much careful attention. John Schneider, in addition to his farming interests, has given much attention to the commercial and industrial affairs of the home community. He was one of the organizers of the Farmers Insurance Company of Plymouth county, and is the owner of stock in the Farmers Elevator Company of Hinton.

On July 15, 1859, John Schneider was united in marriage to Katherine Winter, who was born in 1832 and who died on April 30, 1909. To this union four children were born, Philip, Anna, Frederick and Martha. Anna is now deceased; Frederick is unmarried and Martha, who married George Koenig, a well-known farmer of Hungerford township. Mr. and Mrs. Schneider were active members of the Evangelical Lutheran church and Mr. Schneider was one of the organizers of the local church. Mr. and Mrs. Schneider were ever active in the work of the church and to them is due much of the early success of the society.

Philip Schneider received his education in the early schools of Plymouth county and here grew to manhood. He was named after his great-grandfather, a native of Germany and a well-known resident of the community in which he lived. As a young man, Philip Schneider married Miss Koenig and to this union the following children were born; Katherine, Rudolph, Lucile, Robert, Ralph and Berdette. Mr. Schneider and his family live with his father on the old home place, one-half mile north of Hinton. In addition to the management of his father's estate of over eleven hundred acres, Mr. Schneider looks after the interests of his own farm of one hundred and sixty acres in the township. He also owns six hundred and forty acres of land in the Panhandle district of Texas, and usually, once each year, he makes a trip there to look after his extensive interests. As a farmer and stock man, Philip Schneider is today recognized as one of the most substantial and successful ones in the county. He is a firm believer in intensive farming and the keeping of good stock. He is progressive and is an advocate of modern methods of farming and the care of stock. He has always taken an active interest in local affairs and his advice and influence is often

sought in matters of public improvement. He and his wife are active members of the United Evangelical Lutheran church at Hinton and have long been prominent in the social as well as the religious life of the town.

MAT RUBA.

Mat Ruba, one of the hustling young farmers of America township, is a native son of Plymouth county and has lived here all his life. He was born on a farm in Marion township on November, 1883, son of John and Margaret (Ganner) Ruba, natives respectively of Austria and of this state, pioneers of Plymouth county, who are now living comfortably retired at Remsen.

John Ruba grew to manhood in his native Austria and then came to the United States, proceeding directly on out to Iowa and settling in Clayton county, where he presently married Margaret Ganner, who was born in Guttenberg, that county. Five years later he and his little family came over into Plymouth county and bought a tract of one hundred and twenty acres in Marion township, on which he established his home. John Ruba was a good farmer and was soon prospering in his operations, gradually buying other lands in the county until he became recognized as one of the most substantial citizens of that part of the county. He and his wife remained on the home farm until their retirement from the active labors of the farm and retirement to Remsen, where they now live. They are members of the Catholic church in that place and their children have been reared in that faith. There were seventeen of these children, of whom ten are now living, namely: Kate, who is married and lives in Minnesota; John, of Remsen; Rose, who is married and lives in Algona, this state; Mary, who is married and lives in Minnesota; Mat, the immediate subject of this biographical sketch, and Annie, Margaret, Joseph and Ben, of Remsen, and Barbara, of Le Mars.

Mat Ruba received his schooling in the common and parochial schools and remained at home until his marriage, at twenty-two years of age, when he established his home on one of his father's farms, in section 1 of America township, where he now lives and where he ever since has made his home. Mr. Ruba is working a quarter section of land there and also rents other land, doing a large business in the way of general farming and stock raising. He has a very pleasant home and he and his family are quite comfortably situated.

On October 9, 1906, Mat Ruba was united in marriage to Lena Kramer, who was born on a farm near Le Mars, a daughter of Adam and Margaret (Ruuck) Kramer, natives of Germany, who came to this country and became pioneers of Plymouth county, where the former died in 1882, his widow now making her home at Oyens. Mr. and Mrs. Ruba are the parents of six children, Roman, Leona, Edwin, Mildred, Clarence and Celesta. They are members of the Catholic church at Oyens and take a proper interest in parish affairs as well as in the general social activities of the community in which they live.

JOHN H. KRUSE.

Among the many well-known farmers and successful stockmen of Washington township, is John H. Kruse, who was born in Grundy county, Iowa, on August 2, 1871, being the son of Hiram and Anna Kruse. Hiram and Anna Kruse were natives of Germany and the state of Iowa, respectively, and received their education in the local schools. Hiram Kruse grew to manhood in the land of his nativity and, as a young man, came to the United States and located in Grundy county, where he worked as a farm hand for some years. It was here that he was married and established his home on a rented farm, where he engaged in general farming until 1885, when he came to Plymouth county. Here he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in Grant township, which he developed and improved and later increased to three hundred and twenty acres. This farm he made his home until the time of his death, in 1894, and here the widow still lives. Mr. Kruse was a man of exceptional ability and a good manager and a hard worker. Coming to this country a poor boy, he, by his hard work and close application to business, established himself as one of the successful and substantial men of Plymouth county. He made many friends and at the time of his death he was held in the highest regard and esteem by all who knew him. He and his wife were the parents of the following children: D. H., John H., Hiram H., Hilka, Anna, Zena and Clara.

John H. Kruse received his education in the public schools of Grundy county and there grew to manhood and, as a lad, assisted his father on the home farm. He later engaged in farming on the home place until he was twenty-three years of age, when he rented land for ten years, at which time he purchased his present farm in Washington township. The tract at the

time he made the purchase was for the most part undeveloped and unimproved, but he now has one hundred and sixty acres of most excellent land, all under a high state of cultivation and well improved. He cultivates about sixty-five acres of corn each year, and the rest of his place he devotes to small grain, hay and pasture. He keeps some sixty head of Chester White hogs and some fine cattle.

James H. Kruse was married in 1895 to Johann Reemps, the daughter of Fred Reemps and wife, and to this union seven children have been born, five of whom are now living as follow: Anna, Flora, Tena, Hannah and Ida, all of whom are at home.

Mr. and Mrs. Kruse are active members of the German Lutheran church of Preston township and are prominent in the social life of the community, where they live. Politically, Mr. Kruse is an independent, yet he takes much interest in the local affairs of his township and uses his best efforts to securing good local government.

CHARLES KELLEY.

Among the well-known residents of Iowa, who realized in young manhood the possibilities of the farms of that great state, and remained tillers of the soil and breeders of high-grade stock rather than go to the cities and towns to seek their fortune and happiness, is Charles Kelley, who was born in Woodbury county, on April 9, 1867. His parents were Daniel and Fannie A. (Welch) Kelley, natives of Ireland. As a young man, Charles Kelley came to the United States and located two miles east of Leeds, in Woodbury county. Soon after his arrival in the county Mr. Kelley homesteaded land, on which he lived until the time of his death in 1903, at the age of seventy-eight years. The wife and mother is also deceased. They were the parents of seven children, as follow: John, Charles, Mary, Richard, Daniel, Joseph and Katherine, all of whom are living in Sioux City with the exception of Charles. Mr. and Mrs. Kelley were active members of the Catholic church and their children were reared in that faith.

Charles Kelley received his education in the schools of Woodbury county and there grew to manhood. At the age of twenty-two years, he was united in marriage to Margaret A. Dunn, the daughter of Patrick and Katherine Dunn, both of whom were natives of Ireland. They later came to the United States and obtained a homestead two miles east of Leeds, which they developed

and improved, and there the father lived until the time of his death, some years ago. The widow is now living in Sioux City. To Charles and Margaret A. Kelley have been born the following children: Edward, Leo, Lucile, Mary, Bernard, Russell, Leon, Lewis, Robert and Helen, all of whom are at home. Mr. and Mrs. Kelley and their family are all devout members of the Catholic church at Sioux City.

Soon after their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Kelley established their home on a farm in Woodbury county, where they resided for three years, when they came to Plymouth county and located on a farm near Westfield, where they remained for fifteen years. In 1905 Mr. Kelley assumed the management of the two-hundred-acre farm of Mary J. Barber, who resides in Polo, Illinois. In addition to this large farm, he has the management of the one-hundred-and-twenty-acre farm of William Flannery. He is engaged in general farming and stock raising, in which he has met with success, and is recognized as one of the thorough and successful farmers of the county.

For nine years Mr. Kelley has been road supervisor in Perry township and has always taken an active interest in local affairs. He is a member of the Knights of St. John, as well as the Knights of America.

NICHOLAS KILBURG.

Nicholas Kilburg, one of the well-known and prominently retired residents of Le Mars, was born in Mersch Kontong, Luxemburg, Germany, on March 1, 1833. Mr. Kilburg received his education in the public schools of his native country and there grew to manhood. In 1866 he decided to come to America and on his arrival in the United States he came direct to Iowa. For a number of years he and his family resided in Jackson county, but in 1872 they removed to Sioux county, where Mr. Kilburg homesteaded a farm near Alton, and there the family lived for three years. They then removed to Milton, Oregon, where Mr. Kilburg engaged in the mercantile business and was for three years postmaster of the place. He then returned to Iowa and engaged in business at Le Mars for five years, under the firm of Kilburg & Nemmirs. The firm was successful in the operation of their general store, but, after five years of business here, Mr. Kilburg transferred his business interest to Ireton, Iowa, where he engaged in business for three years, when he and his family removed to Minneapolis, Minnesota. There they resided for a short time and then returned to Le Mars, where Mr. Kil-

burg now lives a retired life. He and his wife have a beautiful home and are enjoying some of the results of their many years of active life.

As a young man, Nicholas Kilburg was united in marriage to Catherine Rhoades, a native of Germany, and to this union the following children have been born: Michael, Margaret and Joseph. Michael was born in Jackson county, Iowa, on October 11, 1871, and died on April 9, 1916. He received his education in the public schools and on December 1, 1914, he was united in marriage to Alvina Sudmeyer. For several years Michael Kilburg worked for A. M. Duus, in the insurance business, and later went to Hamburg, Iowa, where he formed a partnership with Fred Reichman in the newspaper business. Later he purchased his partner's interests and conducted the business for himself for a time. He then sold the business and returned to Le Mars, where he formed a partnership with A. M. Duus in the insurance business. He continued in this work until his health compelled him to retire from active work some years before his death. Margaret, who died on August 12, 1899, was the wife of Frank P. Branch.

Joseph Kilburg, one of the prominent and successful residents of Plymouth county, Iowa, received his education in the public schools of his home community and grew to manhood in the state of Iowa. On February 26, 1913, he was united in marriage to Helen A. Schmidt, of Sioux county, Iowa, and the daughter of Boi Schmidt and wife, now of Le Mars. To this union one child has been born, Joseph Eugene. Mr. and Mrs. Kilburg are active members of the Catholic church and have long been active in the social and the religious life of the community, being held in the highest regard and respect by all who know them. For seven years Mr. Kilburg was engaged in the insurance business with A. M. Duus, after which he was bookkeeper for the bottling works for some years. He later engaged in the automobile livery business and later, in 1914, established a garage, with Mr. Ricabaugh, under the firm name of Kilburg & Ricabaugh. During the past they have held the agency for several machines, but at the present they are devoting their time to the sale of the Dodge machine and are meeting with much success. They are most progressive and have established one of the largest businesses of the kind in this section of the county being recognized as among the substantial and successful men of the community.

In addition to his extensive automobile business, Mr. Kilburg looks after his father's farming interest, consisting of two hundred and forty acres in Sioux county, Iowa, and seven hundred acres in Antelope county, Nebraska. Mr. Kilburg is a man of much business ability and his life has been a most active one. He has always taken a keen interest in local affairs and

has had much to do with the financial interest of the town as well as the township in which he lives and where he is held in high regard as a business man.

GEORGE ELLISON.

This is often called the age of young men, and it is no doubt true that more men of immature years are filling responsible positions than ever in the history of the world. One has only to look around a little in any commercial center to find that this is true. One of the younger and enterprising men of affairs of Plymouth county who is deserving of special mention in this connection is George Ellison, of the Security Bank of Hinton. Mr. Ellison was born in Plymouth county, Iowa, December 1, 1880, and is a son of Charles and Mary (Cavanaugh) Ellison. The father was born in Sweden, where he spent his boyhood, coming to America when about twenty years old, about the year 1860. He located in Kalamazoo, Michigan, where he lived several years and there he was married. While living there he worked on a railroad. In 1876 he came to Iowa, locating near Alta, where he farmed two years, then moved to Hinton, where he continued to make his home until 1900, when he moved on a farm north of Hinton, where his death occurred on May 30, 1901. His wife died on May 17, 1899. She was a native of Michigan and of Irish and German parentage. Charles Ellison became one of the well-to-do farmers of Plymouth county, owning in all about four hundred and seventy acres. His family consisted of the following children: Mary, Mamie, George, Mabel, Albert, Laura, Viola and Alvin.

George Ellison received his education in the public schools of Hinton, later attending the Sioux City Business College, from which he was graduated in 1898. He then went to Merrill, Iowa, and worked in a drug store. He then returned to the home farm, his father's health having failed, and looked after the place a year and a half, then worked in the Bank of Merrill for five years as assistant cashier. In 1907 he took a position as cashier in the Security Bank, of Hinton, where he has since remained. The bank was organized at that time and it has had a steady and satisfactory growth. He was one of the organizers, but it is now owned by Haese & Lawrence, of Merrill, Iowa. Mr. Ellison has given eminent satisfaction to all concerned and has kept well abreast of the times in banking methods. He is also interested in land in this county.

Mr. Ellison was married on June 19, 1911, to Vera Lawrence and to them two children have been born, Gene and Geredine. Mr. Ellison has served as city clerk since the town of Hinton was incorporated and has also served as school director. Fraternally, he belongs to the Masonic order, having attained the thirty-second degree. He also belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Modern Woodmen of America. He is a member of the Evangelical church.

ELMER RAINBOTH.

Elmer Rainboth, one of the progressive young farmers of Union township, this county, is a native son of Plymouth county, born on the farm on which he is now living, and has lived there all his life. He was born on January 25, 1880, son of James and Johanna (Dorsey) Rainboth, the former a native of Canada and the latter of Ireland, both of whom had come to this country in the days of their youth and had settled in Pennsylvania, where they were married. Following their marriage James Rainboth and wife moved to Ohio and thence to Wisconsin, in which latter state Mr. Rainboth farmed for about three years, at the end of which time he came to this state, driving over from Wisconsin with a team of mules, and settled on a farm in the vicinity of Dyersville, where he remained until 1873, in which year he came to Plymouth county with his family and bought a farm of one hundred and twenty acres in Union township, the place now owned by his son, the subject of this sketch, paying for the same six dollars an acre.

Upon taking possession of that pioneer farm James Rainboth set up a small "shack" for the protection of his family and settled down to break the sod and improve his place. During the grasshopper visitations in the years following his settlement there he suffered along with the other pioneers, but "stuck it out" and presently had a well-improved and profitably cultivated place, on which he spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring in June, 1898. His widow survived him for nearly fifteen years, her death occurring on January 13, 1913. They were the parents of seven children, five of whom are still living, those besides the subject of this sketch, who was the last-born, being as follow: Wilbur, who is now living in the state of Washington; Frances, who married Thomas Case; George, of the state of Washington, and Eugene.

Reared on the pioneer farm on which he was born, Elmer Rainboth

has always remained there. He received his schooling in the common schools of that township and from early boyhood was a valued assistant in the labors of the farm, which he now owns and on which he is doing very well. In addition to his general farming Mr. Rainboth gives considerable attention to the raising of live stock and feeds from fifty to one hundred head of hogs a year. He has a well-equipped farm plant and is carrying on his operations in accordance with up-to-date methods.

In November, 1913, Elmer Rainboth was united in marriage to Lena Watson, daughter of Hugh Watson and wife, of this county, and to this union two children have been born, Francis and Melvin. Mr. and Mrs. Rainboth have a pleasant home and take an interested part in the general social activities of their neighborhood. Mr. Rainboth is an independent Republican and takes a proper interest in the political affairs of the county and state.

R. J. JOYNT, D. D. S.

R. J. Joynt, a native of Palo Alto county, Iowa, and now one of the leading professional men of Le Mars, Plymouth county, was born on February 15, 1884, and is the son of M. and Bridget (Brennan) Joynt. These parents are well-known residents of Plymouth county, where Mr. Joynt is recognized as one of the substantial and successful farmers and stock men. He is progressive and believes in intensive farming, the most thorough cultivation of the soil and the keeping of the best of stock. Mr. and Mrs. Joynt are active members of the Catholic church and have long been prominent in the social and religious life of the community, where they are held in the highest regard and esteem by all who know them. They are the parents of the following children: M. J., M. F., A. J., R. J., J. T. and D. W. M. J. is an eye, nose and ear specialist of Le Mars; M. F. is a well-known physician of Marcus, Iowa; A. J. is an eye, ear and nose specialist of Waterloo, Iowa, and J. T. and D. W. are farmers in the county.

R. J. Joynt received his primary education in the public schools of his home district and later attended the State University at Iowa City. After having graduated from this institution in the dental department in 1907, he at once located at Le Mars, where he has since engaged in his profession.

On February 4, 1913, R. J. Joynt was united in marriage to Mamie Teefey and to this union one child, Mary Ellen, has been born. Mr. and Mrs. Joynt have an ideal home and are prominent in the social and religious

life of the community. They take much interest in the moral and the social development of their home town and are recognized as among the earnest workers for the betterment of the district. They are devout members of the Catholic church and take much interest in all church work. Mr. Joynt is a member of the Elks lodge and the Knights of Columbus and has had much to do with the success of the local orders.

R. J. Joynt has devoted his best efforts to the mastery of his profession and is recognized as one of the most proficient workmen in his line in this part of the state. He has been most successful in his profession and, in addition to his extensive practice, he is the owner of eighty acres of land in Palo Alto county, Iowa, as well as owning one-half interest in one hundred and sixty acres of land in South Dakota.

THOMAS CASE.

Thomas Case, one of Henry township's most substantial farmers, the proprietor of a fine farm of three hundred and twenty acres there, is a native of England, but has been a resident of this country since he was twenty-one years of age. He was born on November 23, 1868, son of William and Margaret Case, English farming people, who spent all their lives in their native country. They were the parents of seven children, of whom the subject of this sketch is the only one living in this country.

Reared on a farm in his native England, Thomas Case grew up to a full knowledge of farm life and when he came to this country in 1889, he then being twenty-one years of age, he proceeded on out to Iowa and located in this county, for three years thereafter working as a farm hand in the neighborhood of Kingsley. He then, after his marriage in 1893, rented a farm in Elkhorn township and there made his home for more than twenty years, at the end of which time he bought the half section of land on which he is now living in Henry township and where he and his family are pleasantly situated. In addition to his general farming Mr. Case feeds about one hundred head of hogs and keeps a good herd of Aberdeen Angus cattle and is doing very well both as a farmer and as a stockman. Since taking possession of the farm on which he is now living Mr. Case has made extensive improvements to the same and has a well equipped farm plant.

In 1893 Thomas Case was united in marriage to Frances Rainboth, daughter of James and Johanna (Dorsey) Rainboth, the former a native of

Canada and the latter of Ireland, who were married in Pennsylvania, later moving to Ohio and thence to Wisconsin, from which state they came to Iowa in 1873 and settled in this county, pioneers of Union township, where they spent the remainder of their lives. James Rainboth died on his home farm in June, 1898, and his widow survived him for nearly fifteen years, her death occurring on January 13, 1913. They were the parents of seven children, of whom five are still living, those besides Mrs. Case being Wilbur, who is now living in the state of Washington; George, also of the state of Washington; Elmer, a farmer of Union township, this county, and Eugene. To Mr. and Mrs. Case have been born four children, George, Oscar, Maggie and Ruth, all of whom are still at home. The Cases have a pleasant home and take an interested part in the general social activities of the community in which they live, helpful in promoting all worthy causes thereabout. Mr. Case is an "independent" Republican and ever since becoming a citizen of this country has taken a good citizen's interest in the political affairs of the same.

FRANK HOLZMAN.

Frank Holzman, one of Plymouth county's progressive farmers and the proprietor of a well-kept farm of a quarter section of excellent land in Stanton township, is the only one of the five children born to his parents who came to this country. He was born in Austria on December 15, 1860, son of George and Anna Holzman, and was reared on a farm in his native land, his father having been the owner of a small farm there. When twenty-two years of age he came to the United States, sailing from Bremen to the port of New York, whence he came immediately to Iowa, arriving at Le Mars on February 10, 1883. He secured employment as a farm laborer in this county and for five years was thus engaged, at the end of which time he rented a farm and for about ten years was engaged in farming the same, being so successful in his operations that he then was enabled to purchase an improved farm of one hundred and twenty acres in section 5 of Stanton township, where he established his home and where he ever since has been living. Mr. Holzman paid forty dollars an acre for that tract and he later added an adjoining "forty," so that he now is the owner of a quarter section of well-improved and profitably cultivated land on which he has a very pleasant home and where he and his family are very comfortably situated. Mr. Holzman has realized the profit accruing from the raising of live stock

and feeds his grain to his cattle and hogs and has done very well in that line.

Frank Holzman was united in marriage to Kate Ruba, a daughter of Bartel Ruba and wife, pioneers of Plymouth county, further mention of whom is made elsewhere in this volume, and to this union five children have been born, Barbara, Kate, Lena, Annie and Frank. Of these children, Barbara Holzman married Frank Deiters and has one child, a son, Joseph, and the others are all at home. The Holzmans are members of St. Joseph's Catholic church at Le Mars and take a proper interest in parish affairs, Mr. Holzman being a member of the St. Joseph Society. Mr. Holzman is a Democrat and has served the public in the capacity of school director and in other ways has displayed his interest in the public service.

H. H. SCHINDEL.

H. H. Schindel, a well-to-do farmer of Plymouth township, is a native son of Plymouth county, one of the first white persons born in this county, and has lived here all his life. He was born on a pioneer farm in the township in which he is still living on November 13, 1862, son of Peter and Mary (Schneider) Schindel, natives of Germany, who were among the very first settlers of Plymouth county and whose last days were spent here.

Peter Schindel came to the United States from his native Fatherland when a young man and proceeded to Illinois, where he worked for a short time and then, about 1854, came to Iowa and located at Sioux City, then the very outpost of civilization in this part of the country. There he worked in a saw-mill for a couple of years and while there married Mary Schneider, also a native of Germany, who had come to this country with her parents, the family being among the early settlers at Sioux City, and in 1856 he and his wife came up into what later became organized as Plymouth county and homesteaded a quarter of a section of land on the Floyd river, in what later became Plymouth township, and there established their home. Upon coming here Peter Schindel put up a small shanty for a home, put up a straw barn for the shelter of his oxen and proceeded to break the soil and make a farm on the virgin prairie. At that time Indians still were numerous throughout this section and the buffalo had not been wholly driven away to other grazing grounds. The land the Schindels had selected for their home lay on both sides of the river, in sections 33 and 34 and in time became one of

the most attractive farms in that part of the county. During the time of the grasshopper visitation the Schindels suffered along with the other pioneers of this region, but they faced the hardships and privations and presently became well-established, Peter Schindel early becoming recognized as one of the most substantial and influential pioneers of that section. He spent the remainder of his life on that homestead farm on the river, his death occurring in 1892. He and his wife were the parents of twelve children, of whom nine are still living, those besides the subject of this sketch being Jacob, Christine, Peter, Charles, William, John, Emma and Mary.

H. H. Schindel grew to manhood on the homestead farm in Plymouth township, where he was born, receiving his schooling in the primitive district schools of the days of his boyhood, and early became a valued assistant to his father and brothers in the labors of developing and improving the home place. After the death of his father he located on the quarter section he now owns in that township and has made his home there ever since, a successful general farmer and stock raiser, feeding from one hundred to one hundred and fifty head of hogs a year and keeping a good herd of cattle.

In 1883 H. H. Schindel was united in marriage to Mary Berner, daughter of Gottlieb Berner and wife, and to this union three children have been born, Elsie, Oscar and Earl. Mr. Schindel is an independent voter. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, past noble grand of his local lodge; a member of the Knights of Pythias and of the Modern Woodmen of America and in the affairs of all these organizations takes a warm interest.

HENRY K. BEYER.

Henry K. Beyer, one of Union township's well-known and progressive farmers and the owner of a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres in that township, is a native son of Iowa and has lived in this state all his life. He was born on a farm in Benton county on February 21, 1876, son of Cornelius and Caroline (Keyser) Beyer, natives of the state of Pennsylvania, who were married in that state and in 1868 came to Iowa, locating in Benton county, where Mr. Beyer bought a farm and established his home. He and his wife were the parents of nine children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the fourth in order of birth, the others being as follow: Ida, who married J. M. Johnson and lives in South Dakota; Etta, who married Robert Johnson and lives at Anoka, Nebraska; Kate, who married George Root, of Iowa

county, this state; Leah, who married Wesley Rathburn, of Winner, South Dakota; Edward, who is a farmer in Tripp county, South Dakota, living in the vicinity of Winner; Jennie, who married Oscar Meyers, of Iowa county, this state; George, also of Iowa county, and Frank, who is a fireman on the Chicago & Northwestern railroad, living at Belle Plaine, this state.

Reared on the home farm in Benton county, Henry K. Beyer obtained his schooling in the schools of that neighborhood and early began working on his own account, coming over to Plymouth county in 1893, he then being but seventeen years of age, and locating at Kingsley, in the neighborhood of which village he began working on farms and was thus engaged until he was twenty-one years old, when he rented a farm over the line in Woodbury county. That was in 1898, the year of his marriage, and he lived there for five years, at the end of which time he returned to Plymouth county and rented a farm in Lincoln township, where he made his home for six years. He then bought the old Henry place, a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in section 27 of Union township and has ever since made his home there, he and his family now being very comfortably situated. In 1914 Mr. Beyer erected a fine new two-story, eight-room modern residence and in the following years built a new barn, thirty-six by forty, with cement floors and up-to-date equipments, the other features of his farm plant being in keeping with the same. In addition to his general farming, Mr. Beyer has given considerable attention to the raising of a good grade of live stock and has done very well. He is a Republican and gives his thoughtful attention to local civic affairs and has served the public in the capacity of school director.

In September, 1898, Henry K. Beyer was united in marriage to Jennie Twogood, who was born in Floyd county, this state, a daughter of Sidney and Kate (Maccabee) Twogood, natives of Illinois, who came to Iowa and after a sometime residence in Floyd county moved to Woodbury county, settling on a farm six miles south of Kingsley, where they lived until their retirement and removal to Correctionville, where they are now living. To Sidney Twogood and wife nine children were born, of whom Mrs. Beyer was the third in order of birth, the others being as follow: Hattie, who married George Murphy and is now living at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; Stella, who married Horace Countryman and is living at Hardington, Nebraska; Bert, who is living at Halliday, North Dakota; May, who married Roy Kinsey and lives on a farm four miles south of Kingsley; Edward, who is farming in Union township, this county; Ruth, who married Louis Irons and lives at Halliday, South Dakota; Frank, also of Halliday, and Hazel, who married Lewis Bertelsen, of Battle Creek, this state. To Mr. and Mrs.

Beyer have been born four daughters, Edna, Gladys, Sylvia and Lois, who are attending the Union consolidated school in Union township. The Beyers are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and take a proper interest in the various beneficences of the same, as well as in the general social activities of the community in which they live, and are helpful in promoting all movements having to do with the advancement of the common welfare thereabout.

GEORGE SPIES.

George Spies, a well-known and substantial farmer of Plymouth township, was born on the farm on which he is now living and has lived there all his life, having a very proper right therefore to regard himself as one of the pioneers of Plymouth county, though still a comparatively young man. He was born on April 28, 1874, son of Jacob and Caroline (Smith) Spies, pioneers of this county, who are now living comfortably retired in the city of Le Mars, the county seat, where they have been living since 1900 and where they are very pleasantly situated. In a biographical sketch relating to Jacob Spies, presented elsewhere in this volume, there is set out at some length something of the history of the Spies family in this county, to which the attention of the reader is invited for further information in this connection relating to the genealogy of the subject of this sketch. Suffice it to say here that Jacob Spies was born in Germany and lived there until fifteen years of age, when he came to this country and settled at Baltimore, where he followed the trade of tailor and where he married and made his home until he came to this county in the early seventies and settled on a farm in Plymouth township, where he lived until his retirement, as noted above. To him and his wife ten children were born, of whom but three are now living, those besides the subject of this sketch being Albert, who married Matilda Koenig and has seven children, and Reuben, who married Dora Sternburg and has seven children.

George Spies was reared on the farm on which he was born and received his schooling in the district school of that neighborhood. He grew up to the life of the farm and from the days of his boyhood was a valued assistant to his father in the labors of improving and developing the farm. He was married in 1899 and established his home on the old home place, his parents retiring from the farm at that time and moving to Le Mars. Mr. Spies is now farming one hundred and fifty acres and in addition to his general

farming gives considerable attention to the raising of live stock, in which latter he has been quite successful. He is a Republican and takes an earnest interest in local civic affairs.

In 1899 George Spies was united in marriage to Kate Blecker, a daughter of August Blecker and wife, and to this union four children have been born, Fern, Earl, Dwight and Leland. Mr. and Mrs. Spies are members of the United Evangelical church and take a proper interest in church affairs. Mr. Spies is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, past noble grand of the local lodge, and takes a warm interest in the affairs of that order as well as in the general affairs of his community, helping in promoting all good causes thereabout.

WILLIAM SCHINDEL.

William Schindel, a progressive and substantial farmer of Plymouth township, was born on the farm on which he is still living and has lived there all his life, therefore very properly having the right to regard himself as one of the pioneers of Plymouth county, for he has been a witness to the development of the county from pioneer days. He was born on July 19, 1870, son of Peter and Mary (Schneider) Schindel, who were among the very earliest settlers of this county and whose last days were spent here, honored and influential pioneer citizens.

Peter Schindel was born in Germany and when a young man came to the United States and for a time was located in Illinois. About 1854 he came to Iowa and settled at Sioux City, where for a couple of years he was engaged working in a saw-mill. While living there he married Mary Schneider, who also was born in Germany, and in 1856 he and his wife came up into Plymouth county and settled on a quarter of a section on the Floyd river, in what afterward became Plymouth township, and there established their home, being among the very earliest settlers in Plymouth county. Peter Schindel spent the remainder of his life on that pioneer farm, his death occurred there in 1892. He and his wife were the parents of twelve children, of whom nine are still living, those besides the subject of this sketch being Jacob, Christine, Henry, Peter, Charles, John, Emma and Mary.

William Schindel was reared on the home farm in Plymouth township and has lived there all his life. He received his schooling in the local schools and from the days of his boyhood was a valued assistant to his father and

his brothers in the labors of developing and improving the homestead farm. He was twenty-two years of age when his father died and for six years thereafter he managed the home place for his mother. He then took over the home place of two hundred and sixty acres and has since been operating it on his own account, having been quite successful in his general farming and stock raising. He raises one hundred acres of corn and from sixty to eighty acres of small grain and feeds from sixty to seventy head of hogs. Mr. Schindel is a Republican, but has not been included in the office-seeking class. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, past noble grand of the local lodge, and is also a member of the Modern Woodmen of America, in the affairs of both of which organizations he takes a warm interest.

In 1895 William Schindel was united in marriage to Elizabeth Wrenrich, of this county, and to this union five children have been born, Ralph, Albert, Hazel, Sybil and Myrtle. The Schindels have a very pleasant home and take a proper part in the various social activities of the community in which they live, helpful in advancing all movements having to do with the betterment of conditions affecting the common welfare.

LEONARD A. SINGER.

Leonard A. Singer, one of the substantial farmers of Union township, this county, is a native of Germany, but has been a resident of this country since he was eleven years of age. He was born in the kingdom of Bavaria on October 15, 1859, son of Michael and Margaret Singer, both Bavarians, the former of whom, was a wagon-maker by trade, died there in 1865, leaving a widow and ten children, of whom four are now surviving, those besides the subject of this sketch being Barbara, who married John Kemp; Nicholas, of Merrill, this county, and Louis, of Remsen, this county.

In 1870 the Widow Singer and her children came to the United States and located in the vicinity of Scales Mound, in Jo Daviess county, Illinois, where Leonard Singer, though then but a boy of eleven years, began working as a farm hand, with the privilege of attending school during the winter months. During his first year of such service he was paid two dollars a month and for the second year, four dollars. There he remained, working as a farm laborer, until he was twenty-one years of age, when he took up the wagon-making trade and a year later went to Kenosha, Wisconsin, where he secured employment in the factory of the Bain Wagon Company. He

later took employment with an organ manufacturing company at Kenosha and was also employed for some time by the Simmons Manufacturing Company. While living at Kenosha Mr. Singer, in 1883, married and in the year following, 1884, he and his wife came to Iowa and located in Plymouth county, where Mr. Singer for a couple of years thereafter was engaged as a farm hand. He rented a farm in that same township and eight years later, in 1895, bought the farm of two hundred and forty acres on which he is now living and where he ever since has made his home. He paid forty dollars an acre for the place and since taking possession of the same has spent between seven thousand and eight thousand dollars in improvements, now having one of the best-kept farms in that neighborhood. In addition to his general farming, Mr. Singer gives considerable attention to the raising of high-grade live stock and has done very well. He has given a good citizen's attention to local civic affairs and has served his district in the capacity of school director.

In 1883, at Kenosha, Wisconsin, Leonard A. Singer was united in marriage to Katherine Mader and to this union ten children have been born, Urban, John, Edward, Cecelia, Amelia, Helda, Albert, Clarence, Francis and Amanda. Urban Singer married Catherine Bentz and has two children, Elmer and Melvin. The Singers are members of St. Mary's Catholic church at Remsen and take a proper interest in parish affairs, as well as in the general social activities of the community in which they live, ever helpful in promoting all worthy causes thereabout.

DAVID HARVEY.

David Harvey, a well-known and substantial retired farmer, of Union township, this county, is a native of the Dominion of Canada, but has been a resident of this county since he was sixteen years of age and thus very properly may be counted among the pioneers of the county. He was born on February 3, 1856, son of David and Catherine Harvey, the former a native of Scotland and the latter of Ireland, whose last days were spent in this county.

The senior David Harvey was but seven years of age when his parents emigrated from Scotland to Canada and settled near the city of Montreal, where he grew to manhood on a farm and where he received his schooling. Upon reaching manhood's estate he entered a claim to a homestead tract in

Canada and after "proving up" the same entered a second claim, which he also "proved up" and cleared, meantime marrying and becoming a substantial farmer. In 1872 he disposed of his interests in Canada and came to Iowa, settling in Plymouth county, where he and his wife spent the remainder of their lives. Upon coming to this county the senior David Harvey bought a homestead right to a tract of eighty acres in section 4 of Union township, paying for the same one thousand dollars. The place had some improvements on it, including a claim shack and a grove, which had been planted by the original homesteader, and Mr. Harvey proceeded to further improve the same, presently having a well-improved and profitably cultivated farm there. As he prospered in his operations he added to his land holdings until he became the owner of four hundred acres of excellent land in this county. Here his death occurred in 1909, he then being at the great age of ninety-six years. His wife had preceded him to the grave about six years, her death having occurred in 1903, at the age of eighty-three. They were the parents of ten children, five of whom are still living, those besides the subject of this sketch being as follow: Mrs. E. H. Brown, of O'Leary, this county; Mrs. James Read, of Canada; Robert, of Huron, South Dakota, and Samuel, of Le Mars, this county.

The junior David Harvey was about seventeen years of age when he came to this county with his parents and his schooling was completed in the schools of Union township. From boyhood he was a valued assistant to his father in the labors of developing the home place and remained at home, thus engaged, until his marriage in 1882, when he began farming on his own account, moving onto the quarter section in Union township, which he now owns, and where he ever since has made his home. Mr. Harvey made valuable improvements on this farm and there he continued actively engaged in farming until the spring of 1916, when he retired from the management of the place and turned it over to his sons, who are now in charge, though Mr. and Mrs. Harvey continue to make their home there, where they and their family are very comfortably situated.

In 1882 David Harvey was united in marriage to Florence Warner, and to this union eleven children have been born, Guy, Wallace, Cassie, George, Sarah, Harry, Samuel, John, Julian, William and Walter. Guy Harvey married Minnie Magnus and has four children; Cassie Harvey married A. L. Koenig and has three children, Elizabeth, Grace and Arthur. The Harveys have a very pleasant home and have ever taken their part in the general upbuilding of the community in which they live. Mr. Harvey is a

Republican and has ever given a good citizen's attention to local civic affairs, though not included in the office-seeking class. He is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America and in the affairs of that organization takes a warm interest.

L. F. WINTER.

L. F. Winter, one of Plymouth township's well-known farmers, is a native son of Plymouth county and has lived here most of his life. He was born on a pioneer farm in section 28 of Plymouth township on December 8, 1871, son of Louis F. and Henrietta (Kannow) Winter, both natives of Germany, who were married after they came to the United States and who came to Iowa in the late fifties and settled in Plymouth county, where Louis F. Winter spent the rest of his life and where his widow is still living.

Upon coming to Plymouth county Louis F. Winter homesteaded a tract of eighty acres in section 28 of Plymouth township and there established his home. He put up a log cabin and straw barn, broke the sod with oxen, set out a grove and presently had a well-developed farm. As he prospered in his farming operations he added to his land holdings until he became the owner of three hundred and twenty acres of land. He lived on his homestead farm for years and then moved to the farm on which his son, the subject of this sketch, is now living and there he spent his last days, his death occurring on October 26, 1899. His widow is still living. They were the parents of seven children, of whom but three are now living, the subject of this sketch having two brothers, John Winter, of Oklahoma, and Otto Winter, of Nebraska.

L. F. Winter was reared on the home farm in Plymouth township and received his early schooling in the pioneer district school in that neighborhood, completing his schooling in the schools at Hinton and for some time thereafter was employed in the old roller mill in that village. He then started farming and for ten years operated a rented farm of two hundred and forty acres in Plymouth township. He then bought a quarter section, the place on which he is now living, and has ever since been farming there, with the exception of three years he spent in the West. Returning in 1910 Mr. Winter resumed his farming operations and has been quite successful. He has increased his original holdings to two hundred and eighty acres and is regarded as one of the substantial farmers of that part of the county. He gives considerable attention to the raising of Chester White hogs and feeds about one

hundred and fifty head a year. Mr. Winter is a Republican, but has not been a seeker after public office.

In 1898 L. F. Winter was united in marriage to Minnie Ellison, daughter of Charles and Mary Ellison, of Hinton, and to this union six children have been born, Louis F., Jr., Merlin, Elvera, Mildred, Bernice and Gladys, all of whom are at home. The family have a very pleasant home and take an interested part in the general social activities of the community, helpful in promoting all good and worthy causes thereabout. Mr. Winter is a Mason, a member of the lodge at Le Mars; an Odd Fellow, past noble grand of his local lodge, and a member of the Modern Woodmen of America, in which latter lodge he also has gone through all the chairs, and in the affairs of all these organizations takes a warm interest.

JOHN P. HOFFMAN.

John P. Hoffman, one of the substantial and progressive farmers of Union township, this county, proprietor of a half section of land in that township and for years actively identified with the work of developing the best interests of that part of the county, was born on a farm in Stevenson county, Illinois, October 5, 1861, son of Jacob and Barbara Hoffman, natives of Germany, whose last days were spent in Illinois.

Jacob Hoffman was reared to farming in his native land and after his marriage farmed there until 1853, in which year he and his wife came to the United States and settled in the neighborhood of Freeport, Illinois, where he presently bought a farm and there he and his wife spent the remainder of their lives. They were the parents of seven children, of whom five are still living, three of these, Louis, Mrs. Kate Berner and the subject of this sketch, making their homes in Plymouth county.

John P. Hoffman was reared on the home farm in Stephenson county, Illinois, and in the schools in the neighborhood of the same, obtained his schooling. He early began farming on his own account and rented a farm in his home county until 1894, in which year he and his brother, Louis Hoffman, came to this county and bought a half section of land in Union township, the place where John P. Hoffman now lives. For some years the brothers operated that farm in partnership and then John P. Hoffman bought his brother's interest in the place and has since owned the well-improved tract of three hundred and twenty acres, on which he is engaged in general farm-

ing and stock raising and which he has brought up to a high state of cultivation. He has a fine farm plant, including a silo with a capacity of one hundred and forty tons and annually feeds about one hundred head of hogs and a couple of carloads of cattle. He owns a tractor and in other features of his farm equipment demonstrates the up-to-date character of his farming. Mr. Hoffman is a Democrat, but has not been included in the office-seeking class. He is a member of the local lodge of the Modern Woodmen of America, in the affairs of which he takes a warm interest, and was formerly banker of the same.

In 1907 John P. Hoffman was united in marriage to Fredia Roller and to this union one child has been born, a son, Alvin J. Mr. and Mrs. Hoffman are members of the German Lutheran church at Le Mars and take a proper interest in the various beneficences of the same, as well as in the general social activities of the community in which they live and are helpful in promoting all worthy causes thereabout.

PHILIP EMMERT.

Philip Emmert, a well-known retired farmer of Plymouth township, is one of the first white persons born in Plymouth county and has lived in this county all his life. He was born on a pioneer farm, the place on which he is still living, in Plymouth township, November 20, 1863, son and only child of Peter and Henrietta (Lentz) Emmert, natives of Germany, who became early settlers in Plymouth county, where the former died on August 15, 1902, and where the latter is still living.

Peter Emmert was born in 1829 and came to the United States in 1854, settling at Rockford, Illinois, where he remained until the early summer of 1856, when he joined a party which set out from that place to drive through to this part of Iowa, which was then beginning to attract settlers. He arrived at Sioux City, which then was but a frontier post, on July 3, 1856, and there he remained about a year, at the end of which time, in 1857, he came up into Plymouth county and settled on a tract of about a quarter of a section of land that he laid claim to in Plymouth township. On that place he built a cabin and started in to develop a farm on the prairie. He passed through the privations and hardships that all the pioneers out here had to face in the early days of the settlement of this region, and presently began to see his

way clear to the development of a fine farm. He later increased his holdings, becoming the owner of a farm of three hundred and twenty acres, and there spent the rest of his life, one of the substantial and honored pioneer residents of that part of the county, his death occurring there, as noted above, August 15, 1902, and his widow is still living.

Philip Emmert has lived all his life on the farm on which he was born. He received his schooling in the primitive pioneer schools of his home neighborhood and from the days of his boyhood was a valued aid to his father in the labors of improving and developing the home place. Upon his father's retirement from the active labors of the farm in 1888 he assumed management of the place and has ever since been operating it very successfully, though several years ago he practically retired from the active labors of the farm and is now renting his fields. Mr. Emmert is a Democrat and has held office as a school director. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, past noble grand of the local lodge, and is also a member of the Knights of Pythias, in the affairs of both of which organizations he takes a warm interest.

Mr. Emmert has been twice married. In 1887 he was united in marriage to Albina Spies, daughter of Jacob and Caroline Spies, and to that union one child was born, a daughter, Henrietta, who married Edward Schneider and has one child, a son, Lowell. Mrs. Albina Emmert died and Mr. Emmert later married Mary Zimmerman and to this union was born a child who died in infancy. The Emmerts have a very pleasant home and take a proper part in the general social activities of the community in which they live.

JOSEPH J. HEISSEL.

Crop rotation, in which one of the legumes is included, is having much to do in bringing about an increased yield per acre of general crops in the Middle West, for farmers are learning how to conserve the strength of the soil, but unfortunately, there is not yet a spontaneous movement to restore the soil's fertility on the older farms. Joseph J. Heissel, farmer of Fredonia township, Plymouth county, is one who believes in giving back to the soil some of the substance which he takes from it in the form of crops.

Mr. Heissel was born in Buena Vista county, Iowa, July 18, 1883, son of Fidel and Barbara Heissel, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this volume.

The subject of this review grew up on the farm and received his education in the district schools. He remained at home with his parents, assisting in the general work on the farm in Fredonia township, where the family settled when he was young. He took charge of the home place there in 1905, and on May 2, of that year was united in marriage to Mary Mooney, a daughter of Patrick Mooney, of Le Mars. To this union six children have been born, namely: Fidelis, is attending school at St. Kathryn's; Leonore is in school at Oyens, Iowa; Irene, Agnes, Dale and Mary are all at home.

In 1900 Mr. Heissel bought two hundred acres of the old homestead in Fredonia township, and built a modern residence of forty-three hundred dollars, also a tank house and other improvements, including a great deal of "hog tight" fencing. He carries on general farming and stock raising successfully, specializing in Shorthorn cattle, Poland China hogs and draft horses. He is one of the leading young farmers of Plymouth county. Politically, he is a Democrat, but he has never aspired to public office. He and his family belong to St. Kathryn's Catholic church at Oyens.

JOHN BARNABLE.

John Barnable, one of Union township's well-known farmers and the owner of a fine place of one hundred and sixty acres there, is a native son of Iowa and has lived in this state all his life. He was born on a pioneer farm in Jackson county on September 10, 1852, son of Thomas and Catherine Barnable, natives of Ireland, whose last days were spent in Jackson county, this state.

Thomas Barnable emigrated from Ireland to Canada in his youth and began working in the timber. He was married in Canada and afterward went to New York state, but remained there only a short time, presently coming out to Iowa and establishing his home in Jackson county. There he bought a tract of land, paying for the same three dollars and a quarter an acre, and became a substantial farmer, and there he and his wife spent the remainder of their lives. They were members of the Catholic church and their children were reared in that faith. Of these children, the subject of this sketch was the first-born and is the only one residing in Plymouth county.

John Barnable was reared on the parental farm in Jackson county and received his schooling in the schools in the neighborhood of his home. He

early began farming on his own account, renting land, and after his marriage in 1880 continued making his home in Jackson county until 1885, when he moved over into Pottawattamie county, where he remained for a year, at the end of which time, in 1886, he came up into Plymouth county and bought a farm of eighty acres one-half mile south of the village of Oyens, where he made his home until 1892, when he bought the quarter section on which he is now living in Union township and where he ever since has made his home, he and his family being very comfortably situated. Upon taking possession of that farm Mr. Barnable began improving the same, set out a grove and has made improvements on the place to the extent of nearly seven thousand dollars. He has a fine house, a good barn and farm buildings and his fields are fenced hog tight. In addition to his general farming, Mr. Barnable has given considerable attention to the raising of high-grade live stock and ships annually a couple of carloads of hogs and a carload of cattle. He is a Democrat and gives his earnest attention to local civic affairs, but has not been a seeker after public office.

In 1880, in Jackson county, this state, John Barnable was united in marriage to Margaret O'Connell, daughter of William O'Connell and wife, of that county, and to this union eight children have been born, William, Kate, Mary, John, Michael and Joseph (twins), Lawrence and Agnes. William Barnable married Ada Dennler and has one child. Mary Barnable married William Holton and has three children. The Barnables are members of the Catholic church at Oyens and take a proper interest in parish affairs, as well as in the general social activities of the community in which they live.

WILLIAM McCARTNEY.

William McCartney, one of Plymouth county's best-known pioneer farmers, and a former trustee of Union township, now living retired from the active labors of the farm at his pleasant home in that township, is a native of Pennsylvania, but has been a resident of Iowa since he was seventeen years of age and of this county since pioneer days. He was born in the city of Philadelphia on October 8, 1838, son of Nicholas and Catherine (Hibbard) McCartney, the former a native of Ireland and the latter, of England, whose last days were spent in Delaware county, this state.

Nicholas McCartney was but a lad when he came to this country from

Ireland and he grew to manhood in the city of Philadelphia, where he married and where he was working as a teamster until he presently moved over into Delaware and there remained until 1856, in which year he came to Iowa and settled on a farm in Delaware county, where he and his wife spent the remainder of their lives. They were the parents of eight children, of whom six are still living. Of these children the subject of this sketch is the eldest and the only one besides his brother, James, who is a resident of this county.

William McCartney received a limited schooling in the state of Delaware, to which state he moved with his parents from Philadelphia when but a child, and there worked in cotton mills until he came to Iowa with his parents in 1856, he then being seventeen years of age. Upon his arrival in Delaware county he began working there as a farm hand, later renting a farm and after his marriage in 1864 established his home on the same, remaining there until 1871, in which year he came to Plymouth county and homesteaded a tract of eighty acres in Union township, where he and his wife have ever since made their home and where they are very comfortably situated, being widely known and honored pioneer residents of that part of the county. Mr. McCartney made valuable improvements on his place and added to the same by purchase, his place now consisting of one hundred and sixty acres, which he has registered under the name of "The Old Peoples' Home Farm." He is also the owner of a quarter section of land in Nebraska.

In 1864, while living in Delaware county, William McCartney was united in marriage to Maria Croston, who was born in the state of New Jersey, daughter of Jonolson William and Maria (Sinnitt) Croston, the former a native of Ireland and the latter of the state of New York, who later moved to Illinois and thence to Iowa, the former's last days having been spent in the home of Mr. and Mrs. McCartney in this county. To Mr. and Mrs. McCartney four children have been born, namely: Mary Ann, who married Albert Cliff and has six children, Fred, Bertha, Bert, Hazel, James and Ernest; Alice, who married John Mace, who died, leaving one child, a daughter, Lillian, after which she married John Lenner and by this second union has three children, Elsie, Jay and Alice; Samuel, who married Nettie Brace and has seven children, William, Myrtle, Jessie, Earl, Mazie, Daisy and Drusilla, and Nichols, who died in infancy. Mr. McCartney is a Republican and for many years has taken an active interest in local civic affairs, having served the public in several official capacities, township trustee for some years and also as supervisor of roads and school director.

HARRY C. HOYT.

Harry C. Hoyt, one of Plymouth county's best-known and most progressive young farmers and stockmen and proprietor, in connection with his father, of a fine stock farm in Union township, is a native of Illinois, but has been a resident of this county since he was three years of age. He was born on a farm in the vicinity of Aurora, Illinois, June 14, 1877, son and only child of James S. and Sarah E. (Pearce) Hoyt, who became pioneers of Plymouth county, the former of whom is now engaged in the stock-buying business at Le Mars and the latter of whom died at her home in that city on March 7, 1912. In a biographical sketch relating to James S. Hoyt, of Le Mars, presented elsewhere in this volume, there is set out further details regarding the history of the Hoyts in this county, to which the attention of the reader is invited in this connection.

Harry S. Hoyt was but three years of age when his parents came to this county from Illinois in 1880 and he received his elementary schooling in the schools of Le Mars, supplementing the same by a course in Western Union College, and remained at home until the year after his marriage in 1902, when he located on the old Pearce homestead in Union township, where he ever since has made his home and where he and his family are very comfortably situated. Since taking possession of that place he has made many valuable improvements on the same and has a fine house and extensive farm buildings, the latter being specially designed for cattle raising, to which latter phase of farming Mr. Hoyt has long given particular attention. The excellent farm plant is equipped with a cattle barn, forty-eight by sixty-four feet; a horse barn, thirty-six by forty; a corn-crib and overhead granary, thirty-two by thirty-one; a hog-house, twenty by forty; a silo, fourteen by forty, and other buildings in keeping with the same. Mr. Hoyt feeds from six to ten carloads of cattle, three carloads of sheep and six carloads of hogs annually and is widely recognized as one of the leading stockmen in that part of the county. Mr. Hoyt and his father are the owners of four hundred and eighty acres of land, to the management of which the former gives his undivided attention. Mr. Hoyt is a Republican and has long taken an earnest interest in local political affairs. For several years he has been clerk of his local school board and was a member of the board when the consolidated school in that neighborhood was erected. He is a member of the local lodge of the Modern Woodmen of America at O'Leary and takes a warm interest in the affairs of the same.

In 1902 Harry C. Hoyt was united in marriage to Blanche Lee, who was born at Dixon, Illinois, a daughter of Horace Lee and wife, now of Le Mars, and to this union five children have been born, James, William, Helen, Donald and Doretta. Mr. and Mrs. Hoyt are members of the Congregational church at Le Mars and take a proper interest in the various beneficences of the same, as well as in the general social activities of the community in which they live, helpful factors in the work of promoting all movements having to do with the advancement of the general welfare thereabout.

JOHN KEENAN.

John Keenan, one of Union township's well-known and substantial farmers and the proprietor of a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres in that township, is a native son of Iowa and has lived in this state all his life. He was born on a farm in Jackson county on October 6, 1865, son of Patrick and Rosanna Keenan, the former a native of Ireland and the latter of Pennsylvania, whose last days were spent in this county.

Patrick Keenan came to the United States when a young man and located in Pennsylvania, where he began working on a railroad. He married in that state and remained there until about 1857, when he came to Iowa and began farming in Jackson county, where he made his home until 1873, in which year he moved with his family over to Plymouth county and bought three hundred and sixty acres in section 13 of Stanton township, where he established his home and where he and his wife spent the remainder of their lives. Patrick Keenan was a good farmer and he not only improved his original farm, but added to the same by purchase until he was the owner of nine hundred and twenty acres. He died on his home farm in 1898 and his widow survived until July 4, 1914. They were the parents of thirteen children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the fifth in order of birth, the others being as follow: Mary Ellen, who married James Hughes, of Stanton township, this county; Bernard, of that same township; Thomas, of Le Mars, this county; James, also of Le Mars; Katherine, who married Thomas Gaynor, of Lincoln township, this county; Michael; Francis, deceased; William, deceased; Anna Regina, deceased; Rose Margaret, deceased; Alice Josephine, who married Frank Dunn, of Stanton township, and Anna Bridget, who married John Crowley, of Le Mars.

John Keenan was about eight years of age when his parents moved over

here from Jackson county and he grew to manhood on the home farm in Stanton township, receiving his schooling in the schools of that neighborhood. He assisted his father on the home farm until 1898, when he began farming on his own account on the quarter section he now owns in Union township. After his marriage in 1901 he established his home there and has lived there ever since, he and his family now being very comfortably situated. Mr. Keenan has made valuable improvements on his home farm and has a very well-kept place. He gives considerable attention to the raising of live stock and feeds all the grain he raises.

In 1901 John Keenan was united in marriage to Daisy Henidel and to this union four children have been born, Rosa, Andrew, Charles and William. The Keenans are members of the Catholic church in Lincoln township and take a proper interest in parish affairs, as well as in the general social activities of the neighborhood. Mr. Keenan is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America and takes a warm interest in the affairs of that fraternal organization.

J. H. KRAMER.

J. H. Kramer, a well-known and substantial farmer of Marion township, this county, was born in the state of Ohio on December 8, 1861, son of Fred and Elizabeth (Vaskey) Kramer, the former a native of Germany and the latter of Ohio. Fred Kramer was born at Oldenburg and when a child was bereft by death of his parents. When nine years old he came to this country to join kinsfolk in Ohio and early began work on the Erie canal. Upon reaching manhood he took up farming and after his marriage in Ohio lived on a farm in that state until he came West with his family and located in Delaware county, this state, and there spent the rest of his life. He was twice married and was the father of sixteen children, of whom eight are still living, but of whom the subject of this sketch is the only one a resident of Plymouth county.

J. H. Kramer was but a child when he came to Iowa with his father and he was reared on the home farm in Delaware county, receiving his schooling in the local schools of that neighborhood. He early began working at the carpenter's trade and followed that vocation until he came to this county, following his marriage in 1885, and settled on the farm on which he is still living, in section 11 of Marion township. Upon coming here Mr. Kramer bought a tract of eighty acres, paying for the same twenty dollars an acre,

and proceeded to develop and improve the same, only about fourteen acres of the place having been broken when he took possession. He erected a new set of buildings on the place and had just completed the same when the well-remembered cyclone of 1885 came along and completely destroyed the buildings, necessitating the performance of his labors all over again. He presently got a good start on the place, however, and as he prospered added to his holdings until now he is the owner of a fine farm of three hundred and twenty acres in this county, on which he has expended ten thousand dollars in the way of improvements, besides owning a half section of land in Hanson county, South Dakota, and has long been recognized as one of the most substantial and progressive farmers in his part of the county. Mr. Kramer is a Democrat and gives a good citizen's attention to local civic affairs, but the only public office he has held is that of director in his home school district.

In 1885, the year of his coming to Plymouth county, J. H. Kramer was united in marriage to Dinah Foerster, a daughter of August Foerster and wife, and to this union eleven children have been born, namely: John, who married Nell Foley and has three children: Elizabeth, who married J. H. Bonekamp and has three children; Joseph, who married Margaret Kinney and has one child; Anna, who married Robert Foley and has two children, Patricia and Catherine; William, who married Elnora Valendorf, and Fred, Matilda, Charles, Frank, Harry and Sylvia, who are unmarried and at home with their parents on the old home place. The Kramers are members of St. Mary's Catholic church at Remsen and take a proper interest in the affairs of the parish, as well as in the general social activities of the community in which they live.

DANIEL KEEGAN.

Daniel Keegan, one of Union township's substantial farmers, proprietor of a fine farm of two hundred and forty acres in that township, is a native of Illinois, but has been a resident of this county ever since he was twenty-one years of age. He was born on a farm in Kane county, Illinois, October 19, 1863, son of Daniel and Kate (Gannon) Keegan, the former a native of the state of New York and the latter of Ireland, whose last days were spent in Illinois.

The elder Daniel Keegan came West from New York when a young man and settled in Chicago, where he married and later went to Kane county, Illinois, where he engaged in farming. His wife died there in 1874, at the

age of thirty-five years, leaving nine children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the fifth in order of birth, the others being as follow: Mrs. Julia Morgan; Mary, who married George Farrell and lives at Le Mars, this county; Kate, widow of Edward Lee, of Mt. Vernon, South Dakota; Ella, widow of Frank Carothers, of Batavia, Illinois; E. W., proprietor of a garage at Kingsley, this county; Frank, who was killed at Sioux City; May, who married Joseph Helt, of Pella, this state, and Charles, who died in his youth. Some time after the death of the mother of these children the elder Daniel Keegan married Louisa Burns, who was born in Ireland and who is still living on the home farm in Kane county, Illinois, surviving her husband, who died in the spring of 1916, at the age of eighty-four years. That second union was without issue.

The junior Daniel Keegan was reared on the home farm in Kane county, Illinois, receiving a limited education in the schools of that neighborhood, and remained at home until he was twenty-one years of age, when, in 1885, he came to Iowa and settled in Plymouth county, where he has lived ever since. Upon coming to this county Mr. Keegan rented a farm in Union township and there lived until 1898, in which year he bought the farm of two hundred and forty acres in section 27 of that same township, where he has since made his home and where he and his family are very comfortably situated. He has made numerous valuable improvements on the place since taking possession of the same and now has an excellent farm plant. In addition to his general farming he has given considerable attention to the raising of high-grade live stock and has done very well. Mr. Keegan is a Democrat and has served the public as a member of the school board, a position he held for several years.

Daniel Keegan was united in marriage to Mary Farrell, who also was born in Kane county, Illinois, a daughter of George and Margaret Farrell, the former of whom died in Illinois, after which his widow and her younger children, in 1880, came to Iowa and settled on the farm in this county now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Keegan, where Mrs. Farrell spent her last days. George and Margaret Farrell were the parents of ten children, of whom Mrs. Keegan was the eighth in order of birth, the others being as follow: Andrew, of Elgin, Illinois; Robert, of Maple Park, Illinois; George, of Le Mars, this county; James, now living in Ohio; John, of Slaton, Minnesota; S. A., of Courtland, Illinois; Thomas, of Kanesville, Illinois; Alice, deceased, and Fergus, deceased. To Mr. and Mrs. Keegan have been born two children, George and Florence, who are now students in the Union consolidated school of Union township. The Keegans are members of the Catholic church at

Kingsley and take a proper interest in parish affairs, as well as in the general social activities of the community in which they live, helpful in promoting all worthy causes thereabout.

MATH. KAISER.

Reform movements travel slowly. The wearing-out process of virgin fields in our agricultural states has extended over a long period of years, but now the farmers of the Middle West are showing improvement in their methods of handling the soil, due to the agitation of experiment stations, county experts and good farm publications. One of the farmers of Fredonia township, Plymouth county, who seems to properly understand the art of keeping his soil strong and productive is Math. Kaiser.

Mr. Kaiser was born, August 15, 1870, in Dubuque county, Iowa, and he is a son of John and Florence (Miller) Kaiser, both natives of Luxemburg, where they grew up and married, and from there immigrated to America, settling in Dubuque county, Iowa, where the father worked as a laborer for some time; finally bought a farm in Meadow township, Plymouth county, on which he lived eight years, then sold out and bought a half section in the same township, near Remsen. He improved the place and there continued farming until his death in October, 1901. His wife preceded him to the grave in February of that year. To these parents eight children were born, four of whom died in early life, the others being named as follow: Math., of this sketch; Kate, who remained unmarried, is deceased; Mike lives in South Dakota; Frank is a carpenter by trade and lives in Windom, Minnesota.

Math. Kaiser grew up on the farm where he worked when a boy. He attended the rural schools, and lived at home until he was twenty-seven years of age. He was married in February, 1897, to Augusta Lichlin, of Houston county, Minnesota, and a daughter of John Lichlin. To this union six children have been born, namely: Joseph is attending Trinity College, Sioux City, Iowa; Florence is at home; Blanche is deceased; Marcus, Marion and Olga are all at home. These children attend the Catholic school at Remsen.

After his marriage the subject of this sketch located on the first farm purchased by his father in Meadow township, and there he followed general farming ten years, then sold out and bought his present place, which consists of three hundred and ten acres, in Fredonia township, on which he has

put many important improvements and where he is carrying on general farming and stock raising on a large scale. He makes a specialty of Shorthorn cattle, Jersey red hogs and general purpose horses. He raises about one hundred acres each of corn and small grain annually, the rest of his land being devoted to hay and pasture. Politically, he is a Democrat, but he has never aspired to office. He is a member of St. Mary's Catholic church at Remsen, and also the Catholic Order of Foresters.

FRANK BORTSCHELLER.

Some believe that a farmer should give his attention to one phase of his business more than others, but most of the leading tillers of the soil in Plymouth county carry on a diversified system of farming. One of the most progressive general farmers of Fredonia township is Frank Bortscheller. He was born in Will county, Illinois, January 26, 1867, and is a son of Henry and Phillipena (Muller) Bortscheller, both natives of Berne, Switzerland. They came to America single and were married in New York City in 1854, and after living there a short time, came to Will county, Illinois, where the father worked on the railroad and farmed for eighteen or twenty years, then came to Plymouth county, Iowa, locating in Fredonia township, in 1882, buying a farm, only partly improved. Here he erected suitable buildings, finished breaking the land and engaged in general farming, adding more acreage to his original purchase. He finally retired and moved to Le Mars in 1897, where his death occurred on October 31, 1913. His wife preceded him to the grave on December 3, 1910. In early life he was a button-maker by trade, but he followed farming after coming to America. His family consisted of twelve children, namely: Michael, deceased; Charles, deceased; Elizabeth is the wife of Edward R. Addison, of Baltimore, Maryland, and they have three children; Josephine is the widow of John Cullham, of Le Mars; Anna, deceased; Henry, deceased; August, deceased; Frank, of this sketch; Michael is engaged in the grocery business in Chicago; John is farming in Marion township; Mary is the wife of J. W. Launders, a farmer of Marion township; one child died in infancy.

Frank Bortscheller grew up on the farm and attended the neighboring public schools. He lived with his parents on the farm until he retired, then bought the homestead on which he has since resided. He has kept it well improved and under a high state of cultivation. He raises a good grade of

live stock, Duroc-Jersey hogs and draft horses. He was married on July 20, 1897, to Rosalia Heissell, who was born in Buena Vista county, Iowa. She is a daughter of Fidel and Barbara Heissell. The father is deceased, but the mother is living in Le Mars. A sketch of this family will be found on another page of this volume.

Ten children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Bortscheller, namely: Malitta, John, Joseph, Michael, Charles, Mary, Edward, Marcella, Claudis and Sylvia. These children attend the public schools and the Catholic schools at Oyens, where the family hold their church membership. The father is an independent voter. He has never been active in public affairs and has only held the office of road boss.

HENRY KEMP.

By employing up-to-date machinery, not only in his fields but about his buildings, and by making his surroundings attractive, Henry Kemp, of Fredonia township, Plymouth county, is experiencing the full joy of living in the country. He seems to have the right idea about agricultural matters, and although he does not farm on so large a scale as some, he does it rightly and makes a comfortable living.

Mr. Kemp was born on February 16, 1872, at Scales Mound, Illinois. He is a son of John and Barbara (Singer) Kemp, natives of Germany, the father of Luxemburg and the mother of Bergen. They came to America when young, single, locating in Illinois, where they were married, and where he worked out as a farm hand for some time. They came to Plymouth county, in 1882, renting a farm just north of Le Mars for two years, then bought one hundred and twenty acres in Fredonia township. It was raw prairie land; he erected buildings and improved the place, carrying on general farming there until 1908, when he retired and moved to Remsen, where he spent the rest of his days, dying in 1910 at the age of sixty-two years. Since then his widow has been making her home among her children, who were named as follow: Henry, of this sketch; Margaret, who married John Hallwach, of Sioux Falls, Iowa; Louis is farming in Marion township; John is engaged in the lumber business at Turner, Minnesota; Annie is the wife of Charles Turner, a farmer of Meadow township, Plymouth county.

Henry Kemp grew up on the farm where he worked when a boy. He received his education in the rural schools and the Catholic schools. He always lived at home with his parents, and has always been a farmer. After

his marriage he located on the old Kemp homestead, where he has since resided and which he has kept well improved and has been successful as a general farmer and stock raiser. He operates two hundred and fifty-four acres. He makes a specialty of raising Shorthorn cattle, Poland China hogs and draft horses.

Mr. Kemp was married on February 16, 1905, to Josephine Hass, of Perry Creek, Plymouth county, where she grew to womanhood and attended school. She is a daughter of Hubert Hass, a sketch of whom will be found on another page of this work. One son has been born to Mr. and Mrs. Kemp, Roman Kemp, whose birth occurred on April 1, 1906. He is now attending a Catholic school at Oyens, Iowa, at which place his parents belong to the Catholic church. The father is a Democrat and he served two years as constable.

FRED ROLING.

Farmers are no exception to the average of mankind. Some will take the initiative in adopting modern methods of agriculture and soil preservation, others will doubt; others will have to learn by example, and yet another class will wait until forced by a depleted soil to take up the new ways. One of the progressive tillers of the soil in Remsen township, Plymouth county, is Fred Roling, who was born in Dubuque county, Iowa, September 29, 1866.

Mr. Roling is a son of J. B. and Thresia Roling, both natives of Germany. The father immigrated to America when young and single, locating near New Wine, Dubuque county, Iowa, where he married and took up farming. He had worked as a farm hand for some time, both in his native land and in Dubuque county, and he had also served three years in the German army. He finally purchased one hundred and sixty acres in Dubuque county, which he farmed until his death in 1901, his wife having died in 1897. Nine children were born to them, Fred being the only one living in Plymouth county. He grew to manhood in Dubuque county, working on the home farm, and in the winter time he attended the district schools. He worked out for some time as a farm hand. After his marriage he rented a farm eight years, and in 1898 removed to Plymouth county, buying one hundred and sixty acres in Marion township, for which he paid forty-eight dollars per acre. He carried on general farming on that place for a period of eleven years; then in 1909 sold out and bought his present farm of two hundred and forty acres in Remsen township. He has spent about six thousand dol-

lars in improving the place, which is now one of the choice farms of the township. He is successfully carrying on mixed farming, raising large numbers of live stock of various kinds annually for the market. He has a fine home and attractive surroundings.

Mr. Roling was married in 1890, to Thresia Funke, and to this union one child was born. After the death of his first wife, he married Mary Reisberg, a daughter of Casper Reisberg, and ten children have been born to this second union, namely: Regina, Frank, Henrietta, Rosella, Eleanore, Martha, Lawrence, Gilbert, Mary and Alma (deceased). Thresia married Frank Nack, and they have one child, Elmer.

Politically, Mr. Roling is a Democrat. He belongs to St. Mary's Catholic church at Remsen.

THORVALD KLOSTER.

One of the most progressive farmers of Fredonia township is Thorvald Kloster. The stranger finds, upon visiting his place, everything in good repair and he runs his farm under a proper system. Such a man sets a good example to his neighbors and is a leader in his community.

Mr. Kloster was born in Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, December 19, 1867. He is a son of Jens A. and Laurantine Kloster, both natives of Denmark, where they grew up and where the father followed school teaching until after the Danish and Prussian war, when he resigned as a teacher and engaged in banking and mercantile pursuits at Rudding, continuing in that line until within one year of his death, when lacking only one month of his ninetieth birthday. His widow is still living, making her home at Hoisens. They were parents of eleven children, six of whom lived to maturity; four are making their homes in America, namely: Andrew lives in America township, Plymouth county; Walker lives in Newkirk, Oklahoma; Thorvald, of this sketch; J. A. lives in Denmark; Eliza lives in Denmark; and Christ Peter lives in Fredonia township.

Thorvald Kloster spent his boyhood in his native place, where he was educated. After leaving school he worked with his father in the bank and store for three years, then went to Denmark and engaged one year in farming. In 1886 he came to America, landing in New York City, April 22. He came on West to Plymouth county, Iowa, and worked out as a farm hand in Fredonia township for two years, then he and his brother, Walter, began farming two hundred and forty acres, which they rented for eight

years, then Thorvald bought one hundred and sixty acres where he now lives, and, having prospered as a general farmer and stock raiser, he has added to his original purchase until he now owns a valuable and well improved farm of three hundred and twenty acres. He has made all the improvements on the same, for it was raw prairie when he bought it. He has spent about eight thousand dollars in improvements. He has a commodious home and numerous outbuildings. He feeds a great deal of the grain that the place produces to his live stock, preparing large numbers of various kinds annually for the market. He deserves a great deal of credit for what he has accomplished, having landed at Le Mars with only fifty cents in his pocket.

Mr. Kloster was married in 1890, to Anna Sophia Nelson, and to their union ten children have been born, namely: Jens A. married Mary Nelson and they have one child, Edna; Herlit married Axel Peterson; Loventine married Bunda Nelson and they have two children, Alma and Millard; Christina married Hans Miller; Eliza, Charlotte, Anna, Niss, Edith, and Nels are all at home.

Politically, Mr. Kloster is a Democrat. He has filled the office of county supervisor for two years, discharging his duties in an able and satisfactory manner. He was school treasurer in his township for a period of sixteen years, and was also township trustee for some time. He belongs to the Evangelical Danish Lutheran church, with his family, and he has been a deacon in the same for twelve years.

JAMES F. MASE.

James F. Mase, one of the substantial and progressive farmers of Union township, this county, was born on a farm in Lafayette county, Wisconsin, October 10, 1866, a son of George and Elizabeth (Adkins) Mase, the former a native of the state of Kentucky and the latter of Indiana, whose last days were spent in Illinois.

As a young man George Mase went from Kentucky to Illinois and for some time followed boating on the Missouri river, his trips taking him on beyond Sioux City. He also followed the trade of carpenter for some time. He married in Illinois and later settled in Lafayette county, Wisconsin, but years later returned to Illinois, where he and his wife spent their last days. They were the parents of six children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the first-born, the others being as follow: Belle, who is living at

Mitchell, South Dakota; Iona, deceased; Mahala, deceased; Charles, who lives at Cherokee, this state, and Walter G., of Lafayette county, Wisconsin, a former member of the board of health of Madison, that state.

James F. Mase completed his schooling in the Wisconsin State Normal School and remained at home until his marriage, at the age of twenty-five years, in 1892, when he and his wife came to Iowa and settled on a farm on which they have since made their home, in section 28 of Union township, this county. When Mr. Mase bought that farm it was but partly improved and he had to "break" eighty acres of it. As the years have passed he has made extensive improvements on the place and now has a well-improved and profitably cultivated farm. His barn was destroyed by fire in 1914 and he shortly afterward built his present forty-by-forty-six barn. In addition to his general farming Mr. Mase gives considerable attention to the raising of high-grade live stock and has done very well. He is a Democrat and has served the public in several elective offices, having served for some time as justice of the peace and also has served as constable and as director of schools in his local district.

In 1892 James F. Mase was united in marriage to Margaret Lindsey, daughter of Alexander Lindsey and wife, of Lafayette county, Wisconsin, and to this union three daughters have been born, Mary, who married Albert Sampson, of Union township, this county; Ethel, who married Roy Jensen and, with her husband, continues to make her home on the Mase farm, and Pearl. The Mases are members of the Presbyterian church and take a proper interest in church affairs, as well as in the general good works of their community, helpful in advancing all worthy causes in that neighborhood.

F. J. GOUDIE.

Among the younger successful farmers and stock men of Union township, Plymouth county, is F. J. Goudie, known to his friends, as "Jim". He was born on the old Goudie farm in the township on May 30, 1881, the son of Thomas and Elnora (Pearce) Goudie.

Thomas Goudie was born in Argyleshire, Scotland, on July 12, 1851, the son of David and Jane (Hunter) Goudie, both of whom were also natives of Scotland. David and Jane Hunter Goudie, after their marriage continued to live in Scotland until 1859, when they decided to come to America. On their arrival in this country, they came direct to Illinois, and there they located on a farm near Aurora, Kendall county. Mr. Goudie developed and

improved the farm and engaged in general farming until the time of his death in 1883. His wife died at the age of sixty-seven years. They were active members of the Presbyterian church and were held in the highest regard and esteem by all who knew them. They were the parents of the following children: Thomas, James, Mary, Margaret and Hugh. James is still a resident of Illinois, and lives on the old homestead; Mary is the wife of Thomas McMullen, of Lagrange, Illinois; Margaret is also a resident of Lagrange, and Hugh lives on a part of the old farm in Illinois.

Thomas Goudie came to the United States with his parents, when he was but a small boy. He received his education in the public schools of Illinois. He assisted his father with the work on the farm. He remained a resident of that state until 1881, when he came to Iowa, and here he located in Plymouth county. He at once purchased a small farm in section 3, Union township, and began his successful life as a general farmer and stockman. He continued to add to his farm until he became the owner of five hundred acres, the greater part of which was under high cultivation and well improved. After some years on the farm he engaged in the livery business at Le Mars, after which he returned to the farm, where he remained until 1905, when he retired and returned to Le Mars where he now lives. During his active life as a farmer he devoted much attention to the raising of Shorthorn cattle and Poland China and Duroc-Jersey hogs, in which he was most successful.

In 1874 Thomas Goudie was united in marriage to Elnora Pearce, of Oswego, Illinois, the daughter of Ezekiel and Sarah (Gronnell) Pearce. Mr. and Mrs. Pearce were natives of Maryland, and were early settlers in Kendall county, Illinois, where Mr. Pearce engaged in farming, and where he and his wife died some years ago. They were the parents of the following children: Frank, Fred, Elnora and Elizabeth.

Thomas and Elnora Goudie have had born to them three children, David E., F. J., and Margaret. David E., who is a farmer of Union township, married Stella Mathews, and they are the parents of one child, Elizabeth; Margaret is the wife of C. L. Nevins, a dentist of Le Mars. Mr. and Mrs. Goudie are members of the Congregational church, and have long been prominent in the social and the church life of the community.

F. J. Goudie received his education in the common schools of Plymouth county and lived on the home farm until he was twenty-three years of age. On September 6, 1905, he was united in marriage to Fannie Hoyt, a native of Union township, and the daughter of George W. and Belle (Clarke) Hoyt.

George W. Hoyt was born in Rockingham county, New Hampshire, on April 21, 1853, the son of Hazen and Louisa (Little) Hoyt, both of whom

were natives of Rockingham county. Hazen Hoyt learned the carriage-maker's business, at which he worked for a number of years. He came to Illinois in 1868 and located on a farm in Kane county, where he remained until 1875, when he came to Union township, Plymouth county, where he engaged in general farming until 1882, when he purchased the opera house at Le Mars, but later sold his interests in that business. His wife, Louisa (Little) Hoyt died at their home in New Hampshire in 1863. Some years after her death Mr. Hoyt was united in marriage to Mary Brunker, of Illinois, and after her death he married a Miss Biglow, who since the death of Mr. Hoyt in 1903, lives in St. Paul, Minnesota. After Hazen Hoyt had disposed of his interests in the opera house at Le Mars, he went to the state of Washington for his health and there he died.

George W. Hoyt received his education in the public schools of Illinois, and there grew to manhood on the home farm. In 1879 he was united in marriage to Belle Clarke, of Green Lake county, Wisconsin. Her death occurred in 1887, and in 1895, Mr. Hoyt was married to Maria Eaton, of Nova Scotia, the daughter of John and Lydia Eaton, who came to this county in 1893. By Belle (Clarke) Hoyt, Mr. Hoyt was the father of four children; A. H., of Sioux City, Iowa, who married Mary Werner, and they are the parents of one child; Kate L. Hoyt is the wife of W. E. Paygant and they reside at Sidney, Nebraska, and are the parents of two children; Fannie is the wife of F. J. Goudie and Agnes S. became the wife of E. W. Morton, of Union township and they have two children. In the spring of 1907, Mr. Hoyt retired from the farm and now lives at Le Mars. He attends the Congregational church of which his wife is a member.

After his marriage, F. J. Goudie located on his present farm, which is a part of the old Goudie homestead. He now owns two hundred acres of excellent land, all of which is under high cultivation and well improved. Since assuming possession of the place he had made many substantial and valuable improvements. He now has a corn crib, that is twenty-seven by thirty-two feet, with a twelve-foot plate; his silo is fourteen by fourteen feet; he has a cattle barn, forty-eight by sixty-two feet, as well as a hog barn that is eighteen by forty-two feet. His farm is well fenced and kept in the best condition. He keeps some sixty head of good cattle and usually about two hundred and twenty-five head of hogs. He is engaged in general farming and generally cultivates about eighty acres of corn and forty to fifty acres of small grain. Mr. Goudie is recognized as one of the hustling and progressive men of the township and the county. Mr. Goudie is identified with the Republican party and he and his wife attend the Presbyterian church.

THOMAS WOODALL.

There is no better occupation than farming, but unfortunately many who are engaged in this oldest of human vocations are inclined to chafe at their lot, wishing fate had placed them in some other sphere. But when one farms with the spirit and care that Thomas Woodall always manifested, he not only gets excellent financial returns, but pleasure also from his work.

Mr. Woodall, who is now living in retirement in Struble, after a career as general farmer in Plymouth county, was born on July 25, 1851, in Lafayette county, Wisconsin. He is a son of Edward and Mary E. (Eden) Woodall, natives of Yorkshire, England, where they grew up and married, immigrating to America in March, 1851, and located in Lafayette county, Wisconsin, where they bought a farm. They remained there until 1881, when they came to Plymouth county, locating on a farm one mile south of Le Mars, where they lived for eight years, then went to Sioux county and bought a farm, later moved to within three miles of Morris, Iowa, where they spent the rest of their lives, he dying there when eighty-four years old. They were parents of five children, namely: Francis, deceased; Thomas, of this sketch; William E., deceased; Salina lives in Iowa county, Wisconsin; Mary E. married J. Pebbles and they live in Le Mars.

Thomas Woodall was reared on the farm where he worked hard when a boy. He had little chance to obtain an education. He remained with his parents until 1881, when he worked the old homestead for awhile, then bought it, and still owns it. In September, 1874, he married Mary Harris, who was born at Mineral Point, Wisconsin, and is a daughter of Simon and Susan (Boyle) Harris, of Exeter, England, from which country they came to America in 1849, locating at Mineral Point, Wisconsin, where Mrs. Harris died, after which Mr. Harris went to California and traveled through the West. He devoted his active life to mining, and died in Sioux county, Iowa. He had two children, Jane, deceased, and Mary, wife of Mr. Woodall, of this sketch.

The following children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Woodall: Simon William, who died in Calgary, Canada, at the age of thirty-nine years, married Ella Nash, and they had one child, Adeline Margaret; Bert, who is engaged in blacksmithing at Craig, Iowa, married Nellie Schultz, and they have two children, Viola and Lulu; Edward is farming in Sioux county, Iowa; Adrian is also farming in Sioux county; Thomas and Harry died in infancy.

Thomas Woodall was very successful as a general farmer and stock

raiser. He was a breeder of Hereford cattle and draft and driving horses and Duroc-Jersey hogs. He owns a fine home in Struble, also a large implement building and hall on Main street, and two hundred and forty acres of valuable and well-improved land in Sioux county, Iowa. He moved to Struble in 1915, retiring from active farming. He is a Republican, but has never aspired to office. He and his family attend the Methodist Episcopal church.

JACOB HERBST.

John Herbst, a well known farmer and a breeder of thoroughbred Poland China hogs, was born in Bavaria, Germany, on September 8, 1876, the son of Joseph and Christina Herbst.

Joseph and Christina Herbst were also natives of Germany, and there they received their education, grew up and were married. As a young man Joseph Herbst engaged in farming in his native country. In 1881 he and his wife came to the United States and proceeded to Iowa, where they located in Dubuque. They were residents of that city for some years, and while there Mr. Herbst was engaged as an engineer. He later engaged in farming in Dubuque county, at which he continued until 1908, when he retired and moved to Dubuque, where he and his wife died some years ago. Mr. and Mrs. Herbst were active members of the Catholic church and were prominent in all church work. They were the parents of seven children, six of whom are now living, Jacob, being the only one that is a resident of Plymouth county.

Jacob Herbst received his education in the common schools of Dubuque county, and there grew to manhood. As a young man he engaged in farming with his father, and remained at home until 1897. At that time he came to Plymouth county and located south of Remsen, where he remained for one year, when he moved to Sioux county, and was there for five years. He then returned to Plymouth county and located in Fredonia township. Here he rented land and engaged in farming until 1908, when he purchased eighty acres of land known as the "Maple Grove Stock Farm," in section 16, Fredonia township. He is engaged in general farming and stock raising, paying particular attention to the raising of hogs for breeding purposes. He sells and ships Poland China hogs to all parts of the United States. His stock is noted for careful breeding, and are among the best in this section of the state.

On January 20, 1903, Jacob Herbst was united in marriage to Barbara Bechen, daughter of John and Susan Bechen. Mrs Herbst was born in Jackson county, Iowa, where her parents had settled on coming from Luxemburg. Mr. and Mrs. Bechen were natives of Luxemburg, and there they received their education and there they grew up and were married. As a young man he engaged in farming in his native land. On his arrival in the United States, he came direct to Iowa and here located in Jackson county, where he engaged in general farming and stock raising until the time of his death. The widow is now living in the county at the age of eighty-two years. Mr. and Mrs. Bechen were active members of the Catholic church, and took much interest in all church work. They were the parents of six children, only two of whom are residents of this county, Mrs. Barbara Herbst and her brother, Mike.

Jacob Herbst is identified with the Democratic party and has long been active in local affairs and has served for a number of years as a justice of the peace.

REV. J. D. MEYER.

Rev. J. D. Meyer the popular minister of the First German Evangelical Lutheran church of Grant township, Plymouth county, was born in Hanover, Germany on December 5, 1855, the son of Claus and Katherine (Sternberg) Meyer, both of whom were natives of the Province of Hanover. The father was a farmer and devoted the greater part of his life to that work. J. D. Meyer is one of a family of six children, three of whom are now living: J. D., Claus and Anna.

J. D. Meyer received his education in Basdahl, Germany, and at a mission at Hermansburg. After completing his studies at the latter place he came to New York on December 14, 1884. He went at once to Watertown, Wisconsin, where he was ordained by the Rev. H. A. Alladd on December 21, 1884. After his ordination he took charge of St. Paul's church at Watertown, where he remained for four years. He was then transferred to the Oak Lawn church in Cook county, Illinois, where he remained until 1895, when he came to his present charge. Here he has made improvements in the church and the church property, and has well established himself as one of the successful ministers of the county.

On August 13, 1886, Rev. J. D. Meyer was united in marriage to Minnie Markgraf, the daughter of Fred Markgraf and wife and to this union five

children were born as follow: Hannah, Frances, Fred, Minnie and John. Hannah is the wife of George Von Hagel; Frances married Henry Jansen; Fred is attending Fahlin Lutheran Seminary at St. Paul, Minnesota, and John is farming in Germany. The mother of these children died on October 19, 1897, and Reverend Meyer later married Anna Beieger of Hamburg, Germany, and the daughter of Fred Beieger. To this union five children have been born as follow: Ernest, Loretta, Claus, Herman and Martha. Mr. and Mrs. Meyer have made many friends during their many years of residence in the township and by their Christian lives and work, they have had much to do with the high moral standard of the township and county. Mr. Meyer is a forcible speaker and an excellent organizer and the church today stands as a monument to his untiring efforts among the people of the community. Being a man of much ability and broadmindedness, his teachings and influence are felt wherever he is known.

H. C. ANDERSON.

H. C. Anderson, a native of Denmark, and now a successful farmer of Fredonia township, Plymouth county, is the son of Christ Anderson and wife, both of whom were natives of Denmark and there lived their lives. The father was a farmer until the time of his death some years ago. Of the eleven children in the family, H. C. and his brother, J. C., are the only ones that left their native land and came to America. H. C. Anderson received his education in the public schools and grew to manhood in the land of his nativity, where he resided until 1894, when he decided to come to the United States. On his arrival in this country, he came direct to Iowa and located in Plymouth county, working in Remsen township, as a farm hand for two years. He then rented a farm for seven years and engaged in general farming for himself. At the end of that time, he purchased the old Varnem homestead, of eighty acres, to which he later added eighty acres.

In 1898 H. C. Anderson, was united in marriage to Lena Miller, the daughter of Nels and Christina (Nelson) Miller. Mr. and Mrs. Miller were natives of Denmark. They later came to the United States and located near Madison, Wisconsin, where Mr. Miller engaged in farming for several years. They then came to Plymouth county, having made the trip from Wisconsin, with a team of oxen and a wagon, there being no railroads in this section of the country at that time. On his arrival in the county, Mr. Miller purchased

a homestead right to eighty acres of land, seven miles east of Le Mars, having given a heifer for the land. He later pre-empted another eighty acres of land, which he developed and improved, and here he engaged in general farming and stock raising until the time of his death in 1912; Mrs. Miller died in 1908. They were the parents of the following children: Marie, Christina, Nels, Lena, Anna, Mary and Carrie. Nels lives at Le Mars; Lena is the wife of the subject of this sketch; Anna is single and a missionary in India, and Mary and Carrie are now deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Miller were prominent in the social and the religious life of the community and were highly respected people.

H. C. Anderson and wife are the parents of two children, Eva and Irene. Mr. and Mrs. Anderson are active members of the Danish Lutheran church of Fredonia township, and are prominent in all church work. Mr. Anderson has been secretary of the local society, since it was first organized. For the past three years he has been president of the school board, and has always been interested in the success of the schools. Mr. Anderson is one of the active members of the Fredonia Grange and takes much interest in the work of that organization. He is independent in politics, but has always taken a keen interest in local affairs and has had much to do with the civic life of the township and the county, where he is regarded as one of the substantial citizens.

PETER ELSSEN.

Peter Elsen, deceased, was born in Luxemburg, and there he received a limited education in the public schools, and grew to manhood. When a young man he came to the United States and proceeded direct to Iowa and located near Marius, where he worked as a farm hand for several years. Peter Elsen was united in marriage to Anna Wupperfeld, daughter of Henry and Mary Wupperfeld, natives of Prussia. They continued to reside in their native land until 1881, when they came to the United States, and located in Plymouth county, near Le Mars, where the father engaged in farming. The wife died some years ago, and the father retired from the active duties of farm work, and makes his home with his children. Mr. and Mrs. Wupperfeld were the parents of four children, Mary, Frank, Anna and Margaret. They were members of the Catholic church and took much interest in all church service.

For a number of years after coming to Plymouth county, Peter Elsen

rented land and engaged in farming. He later purchased a farm of one hundred and sixty acres, and he did much in the way of development. He then sold the place and purchased a farm in section 31, Remsen township, to which he later added, until he became the owner of two hundred and forty acres of excellent land. This he developed and improved, until he had one of the most desirable places in the township. He was a firm believer in intensive farming and thorough cultivation of the soil.

Peter and Anna Elsen were the parents of the following children: Anna, John, Maggie, Elizabeth, Freda and Clara. Anna is the wife of Stephen Elsen and lives in Parkston, South Dakota; John is attending school in Minneapolis; Maggie is the wife of Joe Burg, of Parkston, South Dakota, and they are the parents of one child; Elizabeth married Arendt Schroeder and lives in South Dakota; Freda and Clara are at home. Mr. and Mrs. Elsen always took an active interest in the services of the Catholic church, to which they belonged. They educated their children in the schools at Le Mars and in the Catholic school at Remsen.

Peter Elsen came to America a poor boy, and by his industrious habits he laid the foundation for the successful life of a farmer. Beginning life in Plymouth county as a renter, he became the owner of a large tract of land, well improved with good and substantial buildings. As a resident of the township he had the confidence and the respect of a large circle of friends, and was recognized as one of the substantial and influential men of the community. At the time of his death, at the age fifty-two years, on September 4, 1913, he was engaged in general farming and stock raising; his widow is now managing the place with success.

ALBERT F. WINTERFELD.

The fertile field and well developed farms of Grant township, Plymouth county, have attracted the attention of many of the progressive and enterprising young men of that section of the state, among whom is Albert F. Winterfeld, who was born in Clayton county, this state, on October 30, 1878. He is the son of John and Fredericka (Weinreihen) Winterfeld, both of whom were born in Germany.

John and Fredericka Winterfeld came unmarried to the United States and proceeded to Clayton county, Iowa, where they were married. For some years after locating in Clayton county, Mr. Winterfeld engaged in farm-

ing, and later he and his wife came to Plymouth county, where they purchased six hundred and forty acres of land in section 7, Grant township, and here they established their home. This farm was developed and improved, and here Mr. Winterfeld engaged in general farming and stock raising. He retired from the strenuous duties of farm life and moved to Le Mars, where he died at the age of seventy-eight years. The widow is now living at Marcus, Iowa, at an advanced age.

John Winterfeld was long identified with the Democratic party, and took much interest in local affairs, and was prominent in both the civic and the religious life of the township. He and his wife were active members of the German Lutheran church and were among the influential members of that denomination. They were the parents of the following children: Lizzie, John, August, Henry, Caroline, Louis J., Emma, Albert F. and Matilda. Lizzie is the widow of Frank Smith and makes her home at Minneapolis, Minnesota; John, August and Henry are farmers of Sioux county, Iowa; Caroline is the wife of George Rentscheln, a successful farmer of Sioux county; Louis J. is now living a retired life at Craig, Iowa; Emma is single and lives with her mother; Albert F. and Matilda are twins. The latter married Arnold Lents and lives at Marcus, Iowa.

Albert F. Winterfeld received his education in the common schools of Iowa, and grew to manhood on the home farm, where he remained until he was twenty-eight years of age. On March 7, 1905, he was united in marriage to Meta Schulz, a native of Mecklenburg, Germany, and the daughter of Jacob Schulz and wife, also natives of Germany. They later came to the United States and located on a farm in Grant township, Plymouth county, in 1884. Mr. Schulz engaged in farming and he and his wife lived to the time of their deaths; he died in 1901, at the age of fifty-one years, and she in 1890 at the age of forty-one years. They were members of the German Lutheran church and were prominent in the social life of the community. They were the parents of the following children: Freda, Alvena, William, Meta, Paul, Herman and Emil. Freda is the wife of Carl Johnson, of Hawarden, Iowa; Alvena married Henry Baack and lives in Sioux county; William and Paul live in South Dakota; Herman and Emil are residents of Grant township, and Meta is the wife of Albert F. Winterfeld.

Albert F. and Meta Winterfeld are the parents of three children, Alvin L., Esther F. and Lucile E. After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Winterfeld lived on the old Winterfeld homestead until 1910, when they moved to the farm in section 10, Grant township, where they now reside. Mr. Winterfeld has improved the place with a beautiful and modern three-thousand-dollar

house, containing every modern convenience. He has also built a fine barn, thirty-four by forty-six feet, with a shed, fourteen by sixteen feet; also a large hog house, granary and other outbuildings. In all he has placed improvements to the extent of ten thousand dollars. He owns one of the finest farms of two hundred and twenty acres in the township; and is engaged in general farming and stock raising. He now has a fine herd of Holstein and Shorthorn cattle and many Duroc-Jersey hogs.

Politically, Mr. Winterfeld is identified with the Republican party, and has always taken a keen interest in the civic life of the district. For several years he was trustee of his township. During his official career he gave the same careful attention to public affairs that he has always given to his own business. Many substantial public improvements were completed during his term of office, which added much to the progress of the district. Albert F. and Meta Winterfeld are active members of the German Lutheran church of Craig, Iowa, and have long been prominent in the church and social life of the district.

CHARLES ROHRICH.

Among the many successful farmers and stockmen of Grant township, Plymouth county, who were born in Germany, is Charles Rohrich, born on April 7, 1874, the son of Gottlieb and Katie (Riley) Rohrich, also natives of Germany. He and his wife were the parents of six children, whom they reared in the faith of the German Lutheran church. The children were Fred, John, Charles, Caroline, Christina, and one sister who lives in Germany. Fred and John are farmers in California; Caroline lives at Sharon, Pennsylvania, and Christina lives at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Charles Rohrich, after completing his education, began to work for himself at the age of fourteen years. With a brother's wife he came to the United States in 1888 and located in Preston township, Plymouth county, where he worked as a farm hand. He also worked in Grant township, and after three years of life on a rented farm he purchased his present farm in Grant township in 1903. Here he secured one hundred and sixty acres of land, which he has developed and improved into one of the best farms in the township. In March, 1902, he was united in marriage to Katie Wilkens, who was born on the old Wilkens farm, which Mr. Rohrich had purchased. She was the daughter of Dick and Kate Wilkens, who were natives of Germany, and who later came to the United States and were among the early

settlers of Grant township. Here they became successful farmers and here they died some years ago. They were the parents of the following children: Fred, John, Katie, Mike, Dick and August. Fred makes his home with Mr. and Mrs. Rohrich; August lives in Grant township; John is now deceased; Mike is a farmer of South Dakota; Dick lives at Manson, Iowa. In 1887 Dick Wilkens died and in 1889 his widow married Henry Hinrichs, and to them was born a girl, Minnie, now living in Preston township.

Charles and Katie Rohrich are the parents of five children as follow: Fred, Dick, John, Charles and Henry, all of whom are at home. Mr. and Mrs. Rohrich and family are members of the German Lutheran church and are prominent in the social life of the district.

Mr. Rohrich is successfully engaged in general farming and stock raising and has a fine lot of cattle and hogs. He has taken much interest in the educational system of the county and for the past two years has served as a member of the local school board.

FRED AHRENDT.

The Germans as a race are noted for their industry and frugality, and it is a well-known fact that wherever these people have settled in the United States there has sprung up a prosperous and successful community. Among the number of those who were born in the fatherland and came to Plymouth county, is Fred Ahrendt, who was born in Mecklenburg Schweiren, on March 31, 1859, and is the son of Fred and Sophia Ahrendt. The parents were also natives of that country and were there educated in the public schools, and there the father died. They were the parents of the following children: Masie, Fred, Recka and Carl. The father was a substantial farmer and the owner of forty acres of land. Mr. and Mrs. Ahrendt were active members of the German Lutheran church and were well and favorably known in the community in which they lived. Masie is the wife of August Muecke and Recka married Herman Muecke.

Fred Ahrendt, the subject of this sketch, received his education in the public schools of his native land. After completing his education, he came to the United States with his mother, following the death of her husband. On their arrival in Le Mars, Plymouth county, Fred Ahrendt engaged as a farm hand at fifteen dollars per month and thus worked the first year. After

being employed on the farm for four years, he purchased eighty acres in Grant township, for which he paid eight dollars per acre. He improved the place and broke the tough prairie sod and engaged in general farming for four years, when he sold the place and purchased two hundred acres of land in the township where he now lives. This place he has also improved, having spent several thousand dollars in good buildings and today has one of the ideal farm homes in the county. He engaged in general farming and stock raising in which he has been successful and is now the owner of four hundred and twenty acres of the best land, all of which is under cultivation and well improved. He keeps a fine lot of high-grade stock and is recognized as one of the well-to-do farmers and stockmen of the community. He still lives on the place, but in 1903 he retired from the active operation of the farm and lets others do the greater part of the work.

In 1893 Fred Ahrendt was united in marriage to Gesche Cramer, the daughter of B. Cramer and wife, and to this union the following children have been born: Amanda, Emil, Fred, Henry, Masie, Ricka, Carl and Bernhardt, all of whom are at home with the parents. Mr. and Mrs. Ahrendt are prominent members of the German Lutheran church; for a number of years Mr. Ahrendt has served as a trustee of the school district.

HENRY W. OMMEN.

Among the farmers and stockmen of Grant township, Plymouth county, who have won distinction and success in their chosen work, is Henry W. Ommen, who was born in Osfriesland, Germany, on December 22, 1864, is the son of Mense and Marie Ommen, were natives of that country.

Mense Ommen and his wife were educated in the schools of Germany and were later married and established their home in their native land, where they continued to live up to the death of Mrs. Ommen. After the death of his wife, Mense Ommen came to the United States in 1888 and located in Grant township, Plymouth county, where he rented land and engaged in general farming, until the time of his death in 1898. Mr. and Mrs. Ommen were the parents of five children, three of whom came to America: Mrs. George Doering, Henry W. and Mrs. Herman Albers.

Henry W. Ommen received his education in the schools of the fatherland, and after leaving school was engaged as a farm hand until he came to Plymouth county in 1889. For a year and a half after locating in the county

he worked as a farm hand, and then rented land in Grant township for five years. He then purchased eighty acres of land in section 20, where he has since made his home. Here he engaged in general farming and stock raising with much success. His farm now consists of three hundred and thirty-four acres of splendid land, all of which is under thorough cultivation and well improved. The improvements have all been placed by Mr. Ommen and during the past few years he has expended about twelve thousand dollars in improvements, and his house is one of the best homes of the township; his barns and other buildings are all modern and substantial structures. He cultivates about one hundred and twenty-five acres of corn and one hundred acres of small grain. He keeps from one hundred to one hundred and fifty head of hogs and many good cattle, and is today known as one of the well-to-do farmers of the township.

Henry W. Ommen was united in marriage on November 24, 1888, to Anthe Rolapp and to this union ten children have been born as follow: Mense, John, Mary, Kate, Henry, Tena, Hannah, Anna, Gerhart and Lena. Mary is the wife of Henry Luben and they are the parents of two children, Helen and Alice. Mr. and Mrs. Ommen are active members of the German Lutheran church of Grant township, and Mr. Ommen is a trustee of the local society. He has always taken much interest in local affairs and has served as treasurer of his school district and is at present trustee of his home township.

REUBEN J. SPIES.

Reuben J. Spies, a native of Baltimore, Maryland, and now one of the substantial and leading farmers and stockmen of Plymouth township, Plymouth county, was born on December 22, 1860, the son of Jacob and Caroline (Smith) Spies.

Jacob Spies has long been known as one of the enterprising citizens of Plymouth county. He was born in Germany on October 21, 1835, and as a lad learned the tailor trade. He was the son of George and Catherine Spies, both of whom were natives of Germany, and there received their education in the public schools. They were later married and established their home in Germany, where they continued to reside until the time of their deaths. They were the parents of two children, Jacob and Catherine.

Jacob Spies remained a resident of his native land until he was fifteen

years of age, when he came to the United States. He resided in Baltimore, where he worked at the tailor trade for two years, during which time he became a skilled workman. Becoming tired of the confinement, he came to Plymouth county, where he purchased one hundred acres of land in Plymouth township, for which he paid nine dollars per acre. The tract at that time was all wild prairie land, but he went to work with determination, broke the tough prairie sod, built a house and a barn, planted a grove, and soon had a well-developed farm. He later added to his farm until he is now the owner of two hundred and twelve acres. Here he engaged in the active work of the farm until 1900, when he retired to Le Mars, where he has an attractive home. When he came to Plymouth county he had but little capital; when he landed in the United States he had but one cent.

Jacob Spies was united in marriage in 1857, to Caroline Smith, the daughter of Christian and Catherine Smith, and to this union ten children were born, only three of whom are now living, Albert, Reuben and George. Albert married Matilda Koenig and they are the parents of seven children; George married Kate Rhickn and they are the parents of five children; Reuben is the subject of this sketch. Mr. and Mrs. Spies are members of the United Evangelical church, in which Mr. Spies has held all the offices of the local organization.

Reuben J. Spies attended the common schools of Plymouth township and has always made his home on the old homestead, and is now the owner of one hundred and six acres of the same. On March 17, 1885, he was united in marriage to Dora Sternberg, a native of Germany and the daughter of Charles and Mary Sternberg, both of whom were natives of the fatherland. Mr. Sternberg learned the shoemaker's trade, and this work he followed after coming to Le Mars, until the time of his death, some years ago.

To Reuben and Dora Spies have been born the following children: William, Albina, Carrie, Philip, Esther, Milton and Fred. William married Blanche Green, and they are living on a farm in Washington township, and are the parents of two children; Albina is the wife of Charles Denler, a farmer of Liberty township and they are the parents of one child; Carrie has been teacher in the county for a number of years, and she and the other children are at home. They have all attended the common schools of the township and the high school at Le Mars.

Reuben J. Spies has devoted his life to general farming and stock raising and is recognized as one of the successful and progressive men of the township. For the past few years he has met with much success in raising and developing a high grade of seed corn. He has always taken an active inter-

est in local affairs, and has served his township as road boss, assessor and was for eighteen years a member of the school board. He is identified with the Republican party, and is recognized as one of the leaders of the local organization. He and his wife are members of the Evangelical Lutheran church and are prominent in the social and religious life of their township.

HENRY F. GROTKEN.

Elgin township, Plymouth county, has many young men who are engaged in agricultural work with success and among the prominent ones is Henry F. Grotken, who was born on the old home place in the township on November 18, 1886, the son of Henry and Mary (Kamp) Grotken.

Henry Grotken, the father was born at Belview, Jackson county, Illinois, and died on January 8, 1899, at the age of forty-two years. He and Mary Kamp were married in January, 1885. She was born in Wabasha county, Minnesota, and later came to Iowa. Henry Grotken received his education in the public schools of Jackson county, Illinois, and there grew to manhood. In 1882 he came to Plymouth county and located on a farm of three hundred and twenty acres in section 10, Elgin township. There was a shanty that answered for a house and a small stable on the place at the time. He made many improvements and built a more substantial house and barn, and in the spring of 1886 he moved to the place, where he lived until the time of his death. During his active life on the farm he was engaged in general farming and stock raising in which he was most successful. He took much interest in local affairs and was identified with the Democratic party. For several years he served as director of his school district and was for a time trustee of the township. He and his wife were active members of the Catholic church at Le Mars, which church the widow and family still attend. Since the death of the husband and father, the widow and children have remained in the home and cared for the farm. There were seven children in the family as follow: Henry F., Joseph, John, Lizzie, George, William and Mary.

Henry F. Grotken received his education in the public schools of Elgin township and in the parochial schools and was reared on the home farm, where as a lad he assisted his father with the work. On September 1, 1913, he was united in marriage to Mayme Franklin, of Shapokee, Minnesota, and the daughter of William and Susanna Franklin, natives of Pennsylvania.

They later came to Minnesota where the father engaged in general farming and the practice of veterinary surgery. His death occurred several years ago and the widow and mother is now living in Minnesota.

Henry F. and Mayme Grotken are the parents of two children, Edward Leonard and Philip Joseph. Since he was twenty-six years of age, Mr. Grotken has looked after the old home place, and when he was married he moved to the northeast quarter of the place where he now resides. He has made most of the substantial improvements on the farm and has had much to do with its development. He carries on general farming and stock raising and keeps a fine lot of mixed cattle and Duroc-Jersey hogs, and is today recognized as one of the progressive men of the county. He is a believer in the principles of the Democratic party and has always taken a keen interest in local affairs. He has served his district as school director and for the past four years has served his township as clerk. He and his wife are members of the Catholic church at Le Mars and have long been prominent in the social life of their home community.

WILLIS PRESTON.

Willis Preston, one of the comparatively young and successful farmers of Plymouth township, Plymouth county, was born in Blue Earth county, Minnesota, January 29, 1874, the son of Wilbert and Nancy (McJuntion) Preston.

Wilbert and Nancy Preston were natives of Canada and Pennsylvania, respectively. The father left Canada when but a small boy and came with his parents to Wisconsin, where they resided for a time, and later moved to Minnesota. It was there that Wilbert Preston grew to manhood and later married. After farming in that state for some years he moved to Vermillion, South Dakota, where he remained but a short time and then came to Sioux county, Iowa, where he and his family resided for two years and then came to Plymouth county in 1884. They established their home on a rented farm on the Floyd river, where they remained for six years. The father then purchased the eighty acres of land, where the son, Willis, now lives, in Plymouth township. This farm he developed and improved and here he engaged in general farming and stock raising, until his retirement in 1911, when he moved to Onawa, Iowa, where he makes his home with his son, the mother having died in 1894. Mr. and Mrs. Preston were the parents of four children as follow: Albina, Stella, Jesse and Willis. Mrs.

Preston had been previously married and by the first marriage was the mother of one son, John, who now lives at Onawa.

Willis Preston received the greater part of his education in the schools of Plymouth township, and grew to manhood on the home farm, where he assisted his father with the many duties on the place. When his father retired from the active duties of farm life and moved to Onawa, Willis Preston purchased the home place and is now engaged in general farming and stock raising with success. He has some fine cattle and keeps a number of milch cows and feeds about fifty head of hogs each year.

On October 7, 1911, Willis Preston was united in marriage to Ollie (Bowles) Connelly, and to this union two children have been born, Edna and Willis. Mr. Preston is a Republican and served his district as school director, and fraternally he is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America.

LEWIS J. HOFFMAN.

Lewis J. Hoffman, a native of Stephenson county, Illinois, was at Florence, that state, on March 6, 1865, and was the son of Jacob and Barbara Hoffman, both of whom were natives of Baden, Germany.

Jacob and Barbara Hoffman received their education in the schools of their native land, where they lived for some years after their marriage. While still young they came to the United States. On their arrival in this country, they came at once to Illinois, and settled in Stephenson county, where they obtained a farm and engaged in general farming, continuing thus engaged to the end of their lives. They were members of the Evangelical Lutheran church and took much interest in all church work. They were the parents of five children, Lizzie, Mary, Kate, John and Lewis J. Lizzie, after having spent her early life at home, married Adam Christman, of Shannon, Illinois, where they now reside; Mary is the wife of Lewis Sheffel and resides at Freeport, Illinois; Kate is the widow of Christ Berner and resides in Plymouth township; and John, whose history appears elsewhere in this work, is a farmer of Union township.

Lewis A. Hoffman received his limited education in the common schools of Illinois. He was but a lad when his parents died, and it became necessary for him to engage as a farm hand, at a very young age. He continued to reside in Illinois, and there he worked on a farm until 1886. At that time he came to Iowa, and he rented a farm in Fredonia township, Plymouth county. This farm he operated alone for some time, after which he and his

brother rented a farm in Union township, and there they farmed together for thirteen years. Lewis J. Hoffman then purchased a farm in Plymouth township, which he sold after six years. He then purchased his present farm of one hundred and thirty-nine acres in Stanton township. This was in 1913 and since that time he has made this his home. He has made many valuable improvements on the place, and today has one of the desirable tracts in the township. He is engaged in general farming and stock raising, and is recognized as one of the substantial men of the township and county.

On June 5, 1905, Lewis J. Hoffman was united in marriage to Anna Herbst, a native of Wittenburg, Germany, and the daughter of Christian Herbst and wife, and to this union four children have been born, Werner, Elmer, Gertrude and Theodore. Mr. and Mrs. Hoffman are active members of the Lutheran church and Mr. Hoffman has always taken an active interest in local affairs and is now one of the trustees of the township.

JOHN REUDY.

John Reudy, deceased, was during his life one of the active and influential men of Plymouth county. He was born in Berne, Switzerland, in 1859 and died at his home in Plymouth township on March 15, 1912. He was the son of Ferdinand and Margaret Reudy, both of whom were natives of Switzerland, where they received their education in the public schools and there grew to maturity. After their marriage they continued to live in Switzerland, where the father died. After the death of her husband, Mrs. Reudy and her five children came to the United States. On their arrival in this country they came to Le Mars, Iowa, where the mother is still living, at the age of eighty years. Mr. and Mrs. Reudy were the parents of the following children: John, Mary, Serela, George and Anna. John, the subject of this sketch is now deceased; Mary is the wife of Julius Karley of Le Mars; Serela is the widow of B. Bloomer and lives at Le Mars; George is a resident of Bloomfield, Nebraska, and Anna is the wife of Jacob Tanner, of Le Mars.

John Reudy received his education in the common schools of Switzerland. He came to the United States with his mother, and with her located in Le Mars, Plymouth county. He later joined the regular army of the United States, where he did efficient service for five years. In March, 1881, he married Augusta Karns, who was born in Berlin, Germany, and was the daughter of Henry and Fredericka Karns, both of whom were natives of that

country. Mrs. Reudy and one sister were the only members of the family that came to the United States. They came to Plymouth county, where Mrs. Reudy worked out until the time of her marriage. After their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Reudy lived for one year on a farm in section 5, Plymouth township, and were for the next thirteen years residents of Johnson and Washington townships, after which, in 1907, they purchased the farm of two hundred and forty acres, where the family now live in Plymouth township. Here John Reudy engaged in general farming and stock raising, until the time of his death. He and his wife were hard-working people and made many improvements on the home place, which they developed into one of the productive farms of the township.

John and Augusta Reudy were the parents of the following children: Anna, George, Mary, Ida, Henry, Tillie, Jacob, Katie and Clara. Annie is the widow of John Albright and lives with her mother. She and Mr. Albright were the parents of three children, Leona, Leonard and Glenn. George is a farmer of Liberty township; Mary is the wife of Frank Albright, a farmer of Plymouth township; Ida lives at Akron, Iowa, and the other children are at home with the mother.

John Reudy devoted the greater part of his life to farming and stock raising, and was recognized as one of the progressive and substantial men of the township. He always took much interest in the civic life of the district and while he was not a seeker after office, he was ever interested in the selection of the best men to fill the official positions. He voted the independent ticket, and was not allied with any political party.

Mr. Reudy and wife were devoted to the interests of their family. They were much interested in their education and were strong advocates of the better system of schools. They were active members of the German Lutheran church, and reared their children in the faith of that denomination.

EUGENE WARNOCK.

Plymouth township, Plymouth county, has within its borders many successful farmers and stockmen, and among the number may be mentioned, Eugene Warnock, who was born on December 6, 1876, in Ida county, Iowa, the son of David and Mary (Ferguson) Warnock.

David Warnock was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where he received his education and there grew to manhood. He learned the blacksmith trade at which he worked in his home city for some years. He later came to Iowa

in 1869, and here he homesteaded a farm in Ida county, on which he erected a blacksmith shop, and also engaged in farming and did much work in the line of his trade. After several years of residence in this section of the state, Mr. Warnock moved to another part of the county and later took up his residence at Westfield, Iowa, where he remained for one year. During his residence at Westfield he rented land and engaged in general farming for one year, when he removed to Ida county, where he now lives a retired life at Battle Creek. He always took an active interest in local affairs, and was for several years trustee of his home township. He has long been identified with the Democratic party and has been recognized as one of the influential men of that organization. He and his wife are members of the Presbyterian church and have always taken much interest in church work. They are the parents of the following children: Maggie, Fannie, Eugene, Joseph and Beulah. Maggie is the wife of Frank Rollins, who lives four miles west of Hinton, where he is a successful farmer; Fannie is the wife of Ollie Spotts of Battle Creek, Iowa; Joseph, who is single, is a musician of Battle Creek; Beulah is single and makes her home at Battle Creek.

Eugene Warnock received his education in the common schools of Iowa, and grew to manhood on the home farm, where he remained until he was twenty-four years of age, at which time he started farming for himself, on a farm six miles east of Sioux City, where he remained for seven years. In November, 1900, he was married at Battle Creek, Iowa, to Nellie Potter of that place and the daughter of J. T. and Ida (Graham) Potter. Mr. and Mrs. Potter were natives of eastern Iowa, where they received their education, were later married and came to Battle Creek, where they now reside. Mr. Potter was engaged in farming during his active life. He and his wife were active in the social and the church life of the locality in which they lived.

To Eugene and Nellie Warnock have been born five children, Olive, Laverna, Merle, Wayne and Donald, all of whom are at home with their parents. Mr. and Mrs. Warnock are active members of the Methodist Episcopal church at Merrill.

In the spring of 1908 Eugene Warnock moved to Plymouth county, where he purchased his present farm of two hundred and forty acres in Plymouth township. He has made many improvements on the place, which is today recognized as one of the best farms of the township. He is engaged in general farming and stock raising, in which he has been most successful.

He is interested in Hereford and Black Polled Angus cattle. He has some eighty head of the finest of these two breeds, in addition to one hundred head of Duroc-Jersey hogs. He generally cultivates some seventy acres of corn and fifty acres of the smaller grain. In addition to his many duties on the farm, Mr. Warnock has always taken much interest in the civic life of the township, and for the past four years he has served as one of the trustees of Plymouth township. He is identified with the Democratic party, and has long been known as one of the leaders of that organization.

ARCHIE WATSON.

Archie Watson, a well-known farmer of Union township, this county, is a native son of Plymouth county, born on a pioneer farm in section 6 of Union township on June 5, 1874, and has lived in this county the greater part of his life. He is a son of Hugh and Isabelle (Morrison) Watson, natives of Canada and pioneers of this county, whose last days were spent here.

Hugh Watson was reared in Canada and became a spoke turner. When the gold rush to California began he went West and was gone several years, at the end of which time he returned to Canada, where he married and was there engaged in farming until 1873, in which year he came to Iowa with his family and settled in Plymouth county, buying a quarter of a section in section 6 of Union township, where he established his home and where he and his wife spent the remainder of their lives. They were the parents of nine children, of whom four are still living, those besides the subject of this sketch, the youngest, being James Watson, of America township, this county; Lena, who married Elmer Rainboth, of Union township, and Isabella, who married Hugh Maxwell.

Reared on the farm on which he was born, Archie Watson received his schooling in the district school in the neighborhood of his home and remained on the home farm, assisting in the labors of the same, until he was a young man, when he went to the Black Hills of South Dakota, where he was engaged working in the mines for five years, at the end of which time he went South and was for a year at Mobile, Alabama. He then returned to this county and after his marriage, in the summer of 1914, established his home on the

farm of eighty acres on which he is now living in Union township and where he since has been engaged in general farming.

On August 16, 1914, Archie Watson was united in marriage to Florence Hicks, daughter of John and Mary Hicks, and to this union one child has been born, a son, James E. Mr. and Mrs. Watson have a pleasant home and take an interested part in the general affairs of the community in which they live. Mr. Watson is an independent Republican.

PATRICK HENRY AHERN.

Not alone are they worthy of biographic honors who have moved along the loftier plains of action, but to an equal extent are they deserving who are of the rank and file of the world's workers, for they are not less the conservators of the public prosperity and material advancement. Ireland has given to the United States many of her noble men and women, who have won distinction in the various walks of life. Many have won distinction as orators, statesmen, authors, mechanics; in fact, representatives of the race occupy some of our most exalted positions. Again we find many of these people who have engaged in agricultural pursuits, and are among the number who have transformed much of our waste land into beautiful fields of grain and well-established homes. Iowa, a state that is much newer than most of the other great agricultural states of the Union, has within its borders many representatives of the Irish people who have had much to do with changing the scene on the great prairies from log cabins and sod houses to pretentious farm dwellings; the unfenced, unturned plains have given way to waving fields of grain and the slow-moving "prairie schooner" has given way to the rushing, thundering railway train. Among the early pioneers who had much to do with this great transformation may be mentioned William and Bridget Ahern, the parents of Patrick Henry Ahern, the worthy subject of this sketch.

William Ahern first saw the light of day in his Irish home, County Cork, in 1816, and was the son of James and Margaret Ahern, who lived and died in their native land. William was one of a family of eleven children, the others being David, Michael, Daniel, Bert, John, Margaret, Johannah, Mary, Elizabeth and Ellen. The family of children all came to the United States

with the exception of John, but William was the only one who came to Plymouth county, Iowa.

William Ahern received a good common-school education in the schools of Ireland and took a course in navigation, after which he devoted many years of his early life to sailing on the Atlantic ocean. In 1855 he decided to quit the life on the water and come to America. He at once went to Galena, Illinois, to visit an uncle and, being impressed with the local conditions, he decided to locate there. His early life on the water had left him with a desire to again return to that life. Yet he remained in Galena for a year and a half, when he was united in marriage to Bridget Gorman, a native of Kilkenney, Ireland, and the daughter of James and Ellen (Deveroe) Gorman. Her parents died in the land of their birth and the daughter later came to the United States and located at Galena. For six months after his marriage, Mr. Ahern acted as mate on the Mississippi river boat, "Diamond Joe," after which he gave up the work and entered the employ of W. J. Quan & Company, grain and stock buyers of Galena. He remained with the firm for twelve years, when, in 1872, he decided to locate in Iowa. Here he and his wife established their home in Plymouth county, where they took a homestead of eighty acres of wild land in section 10, Liberty township. A house sixteen by twenty feet was erected of cottonwood lumber and in this the family lived for eight years. A part of the tough prairie sod was broken by hire, and Mr. Ahern purchased a team of oxen and put out three and a half acres of wheat and later harvested one hundred and fifteen bushels of grain. The next year he purchased another yoke of oxen and engaged more extensively in farm work. It was at that time that the grasshopper plague was on in Iowa and the farmers of this section suffered many hardships from the devastation of their crops. Mr. Ahern secured work in a lumber yard at Sioux City, in order to supply food and clothing for his little family. He had no horses at that time and it was necessary for him to carry his provisions home in a sack, on his back, a distance of fifteen miles, and many a time his load consisted of a fifty-pound sack of flour and other articles. Those were most difficult times and it required the grit and sterling qualities of manhood and womanhood to withstand the many hardships and privations, but this man and woman had come here to make a home and they were determined to succeed in their undertaking. In time the conditions began to improve and Mr. Ahern devoted his time and attention to his farm. Another eighty acres of land on the south was purchased, and later the one-hundred-and-sixty-acre tract was put under cultivation. Groves were planted, fences

built, barns erected and the present substantial house was erected. It was here that Mr. Ahern engaged in general farming and stock raising until the time of his death, in 1898, at the age of sixty-eight years, after a useful and eventful life. The widow, after the death of her husband, continued to live on the old home farm until her death, in 1912, at the age of seventy-four years.

William and Bridget Ahern were the parents of the following children: James, Jack, Hannah, Ellen, Patrick Henry, Kate and Margaret. James is a well-known farmer in this township and also operates a threshing machine; Jack is living a retired life at Sioux City; Hannah, who is now deceased, was the wife of Charles Reynolds, a successful farmer of Liberty township; Ellen is the wife of F. Montague, of Perry township; Kate married L. Montague, also a farmer of Perry township, and Margaret is a successful teacher in the county. Mr. and Mrs. Ahern were active members of the Catholic church and reared their family in that faith.

Patrick Henry Ahern, now one of the well-known farmers of Liberty township, was born at Galena, Illinois, in February, 1872, and was brought to Plymouth county by his parents when but a babe. He received his education in the public schools of the county and grew to manhood on the home farm. He assisted his father until he was twenty-five years of age, at which time he began farming for himself, yet lived at home. He first purchased eighty acres of wild land that was located near the old home, to which he later added another eighty acres. The latter eighty had been partially developed and was improved with some old buildings. Since assuming possession of the farm, he has done much in the way of development and has made many valuable improvements, including a splendid barn and other farm buildings, and has just completed a fine one-story bungalow, which adds much to the beauty of the place. His farm is nicely located and his splendid and well-kept buildings, surrounded by beautiful groves of maple, box-alders and other trees, present a most pleasing view from over the broad plains.

Mr. Ahern is engaged in general farming and stock raising and has a fine bunch of Shorthorn cattle and some good Chester White hogs, being today recognized as one of the substantial men of the township. He is a devout member of the Catholic church and, politically, he is identified with the Democratic party. He is most progressive in his business affairs and is a firm believer in the progressive spirit in all governmental work. He is unmarried and cares for his own home.

WILLIAM E. DENNLER.

Among the successful and well-known men of Plymouth county, who have won distinction in the mercantile line, is William E. Dennler, of Merrill, the proprietor of one of the substantial general stores and who was born in Liberty township, Plymouth county, on January 1, 1878, and is the son of John and Elizabeth (Albright) Dennler. John Dennler was born in Bern, Switzerland, on January 2, 1839, and Mrs. Dennler was a native of Zurich, Switzerland, born on October 10, 1852. John Dennler received his education in the schools of his native land and there spent his boyhood days, amid the beautiful scenery of that far-away and renowned country. His mother died when he was but a small boy and, when he was yet but a lad, he decided to come to America. In 1857 he located at Laporte, Indiana, where he worked on farms for several years, and thus continued until the outbreak of the Civil War, when, true to the flag of his adopted country, he enlisted as a soldier. For three years he devoted his life to the cause of the Union and in 1867 came to Plymouth county and in 1870 he homesteaded eighty acres in Liberty township, to which he later added one hundred and sixty acres. The tract at that time was undeveloped and unimproved, yet, with persistent effort and close application to business, he developed the farm into one of the ideal places of the county. It was here that he successfully engaged in general farming and stock raising, until the time of his death. His wife, who died in 1907, was his constant companion on the farm and was his adviser and helpmeet during the trying days of their early married life. Locating on the farm when the country was new, they experienced many of the hardships and privations common to the early settler. Yet they were brave and to them is due much of the future growth and success of the township. They took much interest in the early educational development and for a number of years Mr. Dennler was a school director of the township and also served as road supervisor of his district. John Dennler died on April 21, 1915.

John and Elizabeth Dennler were the parents of thirteen children, as follow: Mrs. William Veidt, born in 1873; Mrs. H. J. Wright, 1875; John W., 1876; W. E., 1878; Mary, 1879, died in March, 1910; Mrs. A. D. Newmire, 1880; F. W., 1882; George G., 1883; Charles L., 1885; Josephine, 1887; Mrs. Will Barnable, 1890; Mrs. George Ruedy, 1891, and Mrs. Bert Hass, 1894. Mr. Dennler was a member of the Republican party and was

prominent in party affairs, and he and his wife were active members of the English Methodist Episcopal church.

William E. Dennler received his education in the public schools of Liberty township and grew to manhood on the home farm, where, as a lad, he assisted his father with the farm work. On completing his school work he came to Merrill, where he clerked for E. R. Dennler four and one-half years in the general store. He then located in Le Mars, where he was in the grocery business for eight years and met with much success. He then returned to Merrill and purchased the general store of W. H. McNeal and is today conducting the largest mercantile establishment in the town. His business room is forty by eighty feet and is well stocked with a high grade of merchandise. His business-like methods and courteous treatment of his patrons has won for him a large part of the patronage of that section of the county. He believes in progressive methods and in the keeping of standard and up-to-date goods and his trade would indicate that his efforts are appreciated by the residents of the township.

On June 19, 1907, William E. Dennler was united in marriage to Clara Amanda Mauer, born on February 7, 1881, the daughter of C. A. Mauer and wife, prominent residents of the county. To this union three children have been born as follow: Leolla Elizabeth, born February 17, 1910; William Howard, September 30, 1911, and Charles Richard, September 8, 1913. Mr. Dennler is associated with the Republican party and has long taken an active interest in local affairs. He and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and take much interest in all religious work.

The KALMBACHER
BOOKBINDING CO.
CERTIFIED
LIBRARY BINDER
TOLEDO, OHIO

